

COUNTY OF DUMFRIES

FORTY-NINTH

ANNUAL REPORT

UPON THE

*Health and Sanitary Condition of
the County*

1946

AND

**Report on School Medical Inspection
and Treatment**


For Year ending 31st July, 1947,

BY

S. K. DRAINER, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
County Medical Officer

DUMFRIES :

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JOHN M'CAIG, L.D.S., Assistant Dental Officer
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ROBERT MARCHBANK, Cert. Roy. San. Assoc. Scot.

ANDREW SMITH, Cert. Roy. San. Assoc. Scot.

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Milk Officers

JESSIE BUCHANAN.

ELSPETH M. MACLELLAN (appointed 4/11/46.)

ELEANOR S. POWELL (appointed 4/11/46.)

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JAMES SIMMONS (8) Langholm District.

To

The Department of Health for Scotland.

The County Council of Dumfries.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I submit herewith the Annual Report upon the Health and Sanitary Condition of the County during 1946. The form of the Report is as directed by the Department of Health for Scotland. There is submitted also a Report upon the Medical and Dental Inspection and Treatment of School Children for the year ending 31st July, 1946.

During the whole of the year under review Dr Ritchie was still the County Medical Officer, a post he had held with great distinction for twenty-five years.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

S. K. DRAINER,
Medical Officer of Health.

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REPORT.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The Registrar-General's estimate of the population in the County Landward and Small Burghs during 1946 is 57,152. No estimate of the population of the Small Burghs is given.

Births.

The births in the County Landward and in the Small Burghs during 1946 were :—

	Corrected for Transfer.	Male.	Female.
County Landward ...	793	396	397
Burghs—			
Annan	88	45	43
Sanquhar	45	24	21
Lochmaben	32	19	13
Lockerbie	47	29	18
Moffat	35	19	16
Langholm	48	25	23

The birth-rate of 18·4 is the highest recorded since 1930.

Illegitimate births amounted to 9·0 per cent. of the total—4·6 per cent. less than last year and 2·2 per cent less than the average for the past 15 years.

While this is a great improvement, the figure is much in excess of that for all Scotland. In his Report dealing with the years 1939-1945, Dr Ritchie set out clearly the administrative difficulties that follow this high proportion of illegitimate births. Only a small proportion of the 98 illegitimate babies required institutional care, but even then the accommodation at Rowan-tree House was overtaxed. The Children's Home at Annan (Springbells) will be of the greatest service in this regard.

Deaths.

The number of deaths, corrected for transfers, was 804, of which 378 were of men and 426 of women. The death-rate, adjusted for age and sex, was 12·4, a somewhat higher figure than in 1945 but equal to the average of the past ten years.

The numbers, causes and age-groups of deaths are shown in the following table :

	All Ages	-1	1-	5-	10-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75-	85 and over
Cerebro-spinal fever	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	30	...	1	...	...	5	7	3	4	3	5	2	...
Other forms of tuberculosis ...	6	1	...	1	...	...	1	1	1	...	1	...	...
Syphilis	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Influenza	13	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	3	2	3	2
Other infectious and parasitic diseases	6	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	2	2	...	...
Cancer	98	...	...	...	1	...	1	7	15	18	30	23	3
Tumours (non-malignant) ...	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Acute rheumatism	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diabetes mellitus	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
Other general diseases	14	1	1	...	...	...	...	2	3	1	3	2	1
Meningitis	5	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	1	...	...
Cerebral hæmorrhage, etc. ...	109	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	6	12	34	45	10
Other diseases of nervous system	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	1	3	...
Heart disease	259	...	1	...	...	...	2	6	19	40	85	81	25
Other circulatory diseases ...	21	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	4	11	4
Bronchitis	19	2	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	4	8	2
Pneumonia	44	17	2	1	1	...	2	3	2	3	5	6	2
Other respiratory diseases ...	13	1	...	...	...	...	3	...	1	2	2	4	...
Gastric and duodenal ulcer ...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...
Diarrhœa (all ages)	4	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Appendicitis	3	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
Cirrhosis of liver	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Other diseases of liver	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	...
Other digestive diseases	10	2	...	1	...	1	...	...	1	2	1	1	1
Nephritis, acute and chronic ...	13	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	4	2	3	2
Other genito-urinary diseases ...	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	3	3	1
Puerperal causes (not sepsis) ...	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
Diseases of skin and locomotor system	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...
Congenital debility, premature birth, malformation	33	31	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Old age	27	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	16	10
Suicide	4	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	2	...	...
Road transport Accidents	6	...	...	1	...	1	...	2	...	1	...	1	...
Other violence	14	1	1	1	1	1	...	2	1	...	1	3	2
Causes ill-defined or unknown ...	17	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	6	7	...
All Causes	804	63	9	6	3	13	24	31	62	105	200	223	65

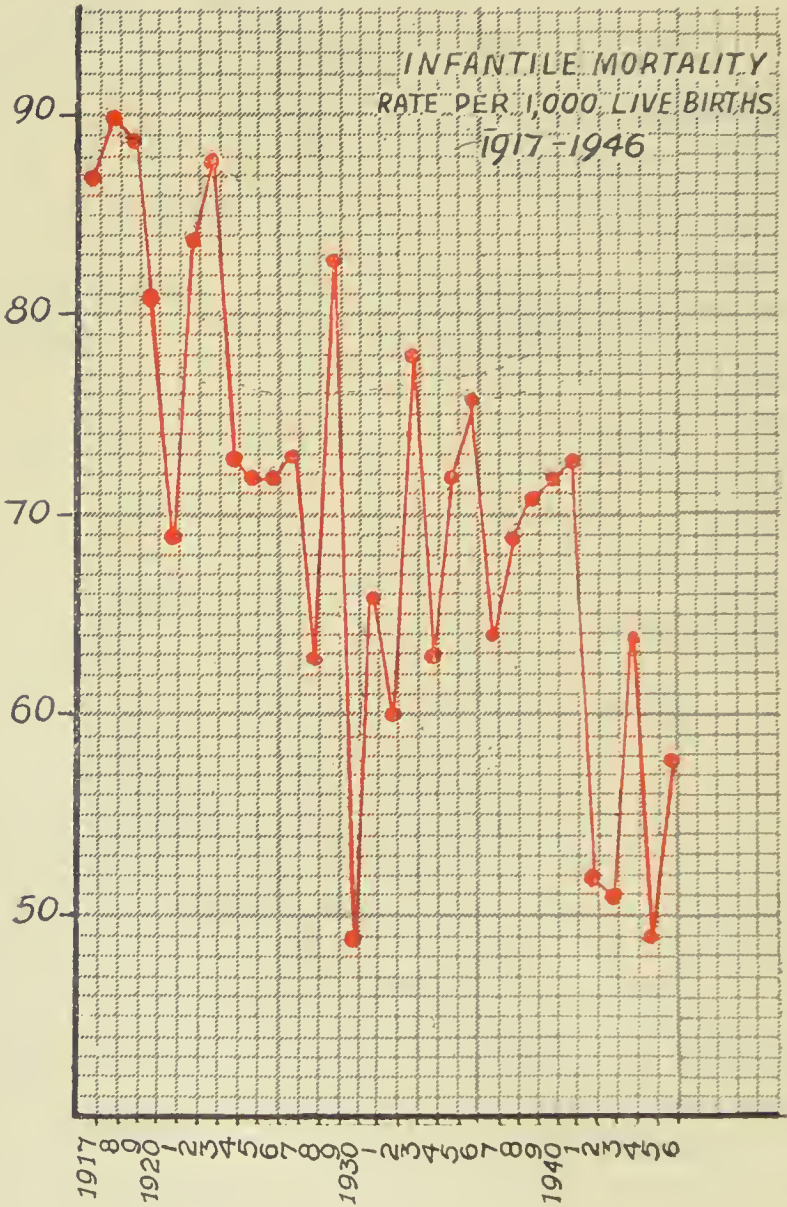
Infantile Mortality.

Of the 804 deaths, 63 were of infants aged less than one year. The infantile mortality-rate is 58 per 1000 live-births, as against 49 in 1945. The causes of death are shown in the following table :—

Cause of Death.	Number of Deaths.	
	1945.	1946.
Tuberculosis	0	1
Influenza	0*	1
General Diseases	0	1
Nervous Diseases	0	1
Bronchitis	0	2
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	7	17
Other Respiratory Diseases ...	0	1
Diarrhœa	1	3
Digestive Diseases	0	2
Congenital conditions	34	31
Violence... ..	0	1
Tumour	0	1
Appendicitis	0	1
Other diseases	4	0
	—	—
Total	42	63
	—	—

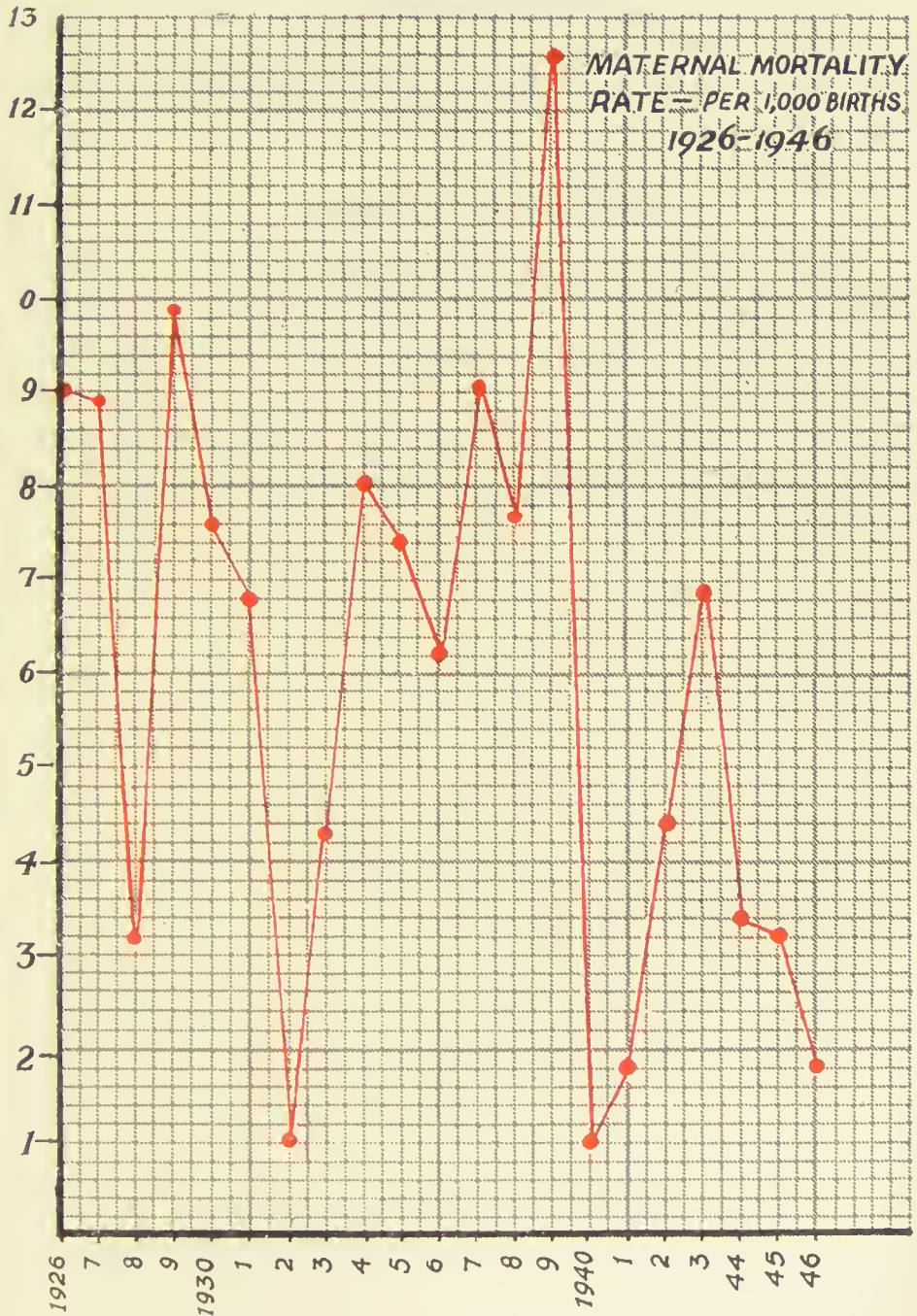
By far the most dangerous period of infancy is that immediately after birth. About one-half of all the deaths occurred during the first month and almost one-third during the first few days of life. As is usually the case, the outstanding causes are prematurity, pneumonia and diarrhœa, the two latter being due to infection. The incidence of prematurity could, in part, be reduced if the mother is given every help to maintain a high level of health during her pregnancy. In the case of premature infants very special care is required and the facilities offered at Cresswell Maternity Hospital have been of the greatest assistance. The resistance of the new-born baby to infection is very low, so that particular care to protect the mother should be given, the highest standard of midwifery should be available to her during the confinement and the child

should be adequately protected against infection. There is scope here for the teaching of mothercraft—the importance of the mother's diet in pregnancy, the importance of breast feeding, of scrupulous cleanliness and of general management for her child.



Maternal Mortality.

During the year under review two mothers died following childbirth, giving a maternal mortality-rate of 1·8 per 1000 births. The graph shows the corresponding figures for the past twenty years:—



Still-Births.

Forty-one babies (22 male and 19 female) were still-born. This gives a rate of 36 per 1000 total births (including still-births).

Deaths from Cancer.

During 1946, 98 deaths were registered as due to cancer, 33 in males and 65 in females. This is seven more than in the previous year.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Three hundred and fifty-four notifications were received during the year from the County Landward and Small Burghs. This is a decrease of 98 on the figure for the previous year, due mainly to the low incidence of scarlet fever. The following table gives the number of notifications received of the various diseases, with the corresponding figures for the previous seven years for comparison :

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Year.	Cerebro-Spinal Fever.	Diphtheria.	Dysentery.	Encephalitis Lethargica.	Erysipelas.	Malaria.	Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	Pneumonia—Acute Influenzal.	Pneumonia—Acute Primary.	Polio-myelitis—Acute.	Puerperal Fever.	Puerperal Pyrexia.	Scarlet Fever.	Tuberculosis—Pulmonary.	Tuberculosis—Non-pulmonary.	Typhoid Fever.	Paratyphoid Fever.	Undulant Fever.
1939 ...	3	94	1	1	27	...	4	11	36	1	1	9	264	43	35	...	...	...
1940 ...	61	196	2	...	31	...	1	25	45	2	2	5	289	34	31	...	2	...
1941 ...	34	181	12	2	19	2	2	21	54	5	2	7	163	45	31	...	2	...
1942 ...	17	92	14	1	14	2	1	8	37	...	...	5	123	50	30	...	2	...
1943 ...	21	77	17	3	25	...	...	17	30	...	4	4	137	59	43	27	...	1
1944 ...	14	106	30	2	30	19	...	9	44	1	1	7	107	41	27	1	4	...
1945 ...	16	89	22	...	22	4	2	3	37	2	1	7	143	61	36	...	...	1
1946 ...	8	76	18	...	18	7	...	20	49	...	1	1	73	54	26	...	...	...

Scarlet Fever.—The number of cases notified was 73, almost half the figure for the previous year. Of these 29 were males and 44 females. The majority of cases came from Annan (13) and Annan District (20). There were three return cases. With the exception of one child who lived in a very remote part, all patients were removed to hospital. There were no deaths from scarlet fever during the year.

The outstanding feature of scarlet fever in recent years has been its relatively mild character. There can be no doubt that other infective conditions of childhood, both because of their immediate and late results, would better repay admission to hospital. The public have still to be taught that measles and whooping cough are more lethal and more fruitful of life-long disability than scarlet fever or diphtheria in the forms we now see those diseases.

Diphtheria.—During the year 76 patients were notified as suffering from Diphtheria. Of these, 43 were males and 33 females. The diagnosis was not confirmed in 26 cases. In the remainder, the germs of the disease were found in 43 cases, while in 7 other patients the diagnosis was made on clinical evidence alone. Two patients who were inmates of the Crichton Royal Institute were isolated and treated there, but all the others were removed to the County Infectious Diseases Hospitals. The single death from the disease occurred in the case of a non-immunised child of one year who contracted laryngeal Diphtheria and died on the day of admission to hospital. Most cases were of moderate severity, but in one instance there was grave toxæmia and in another some involvement of the heart. The disease occurred in 21 patients who had been previously inoculated against Diphtheria, though there is reason to believe that in the case of some of these patients the inoculations had not been completed. It was again noteworthy that the disease affected more persons in the older age-groups. Ten cases occurred in patients under 10 years, 24 in patients from 10-20 years, 11 in patients from 20-30, and in 6 instances the disease affected patients of age 30-40 years.

Types of Infection.—The typing of the various strains of *C. diphtheriæ* was continued during the year in the County Laboratory.

Distribution of *C. diphtheriæ* Types (1946).

AREA.	TYPE.				
	Gravis.	Intermedius.	Mitis.	Atypical.	Total.
Dumfriesshire ...	22	10	7	4	43
Kirkcudbrightshire	3	4	1	0	8
Wigtownshire ...	1	1	0	0	2
Dumfries Burgh ...	28	7	5	0	40
Total ...	54	22	13	4	93

The percentages of each type isolated during the past four years were :—

	Gravis.	Intermedius.	Mitis.	Atypical.
1943 ...	80.2	11.7	8.1	...
1944 ...	78.2	15.7	5.2	0.7
1945 ...	55.0	19.5	24.5	0.8
1946 ...	57.9	23.8	13.9	4.4

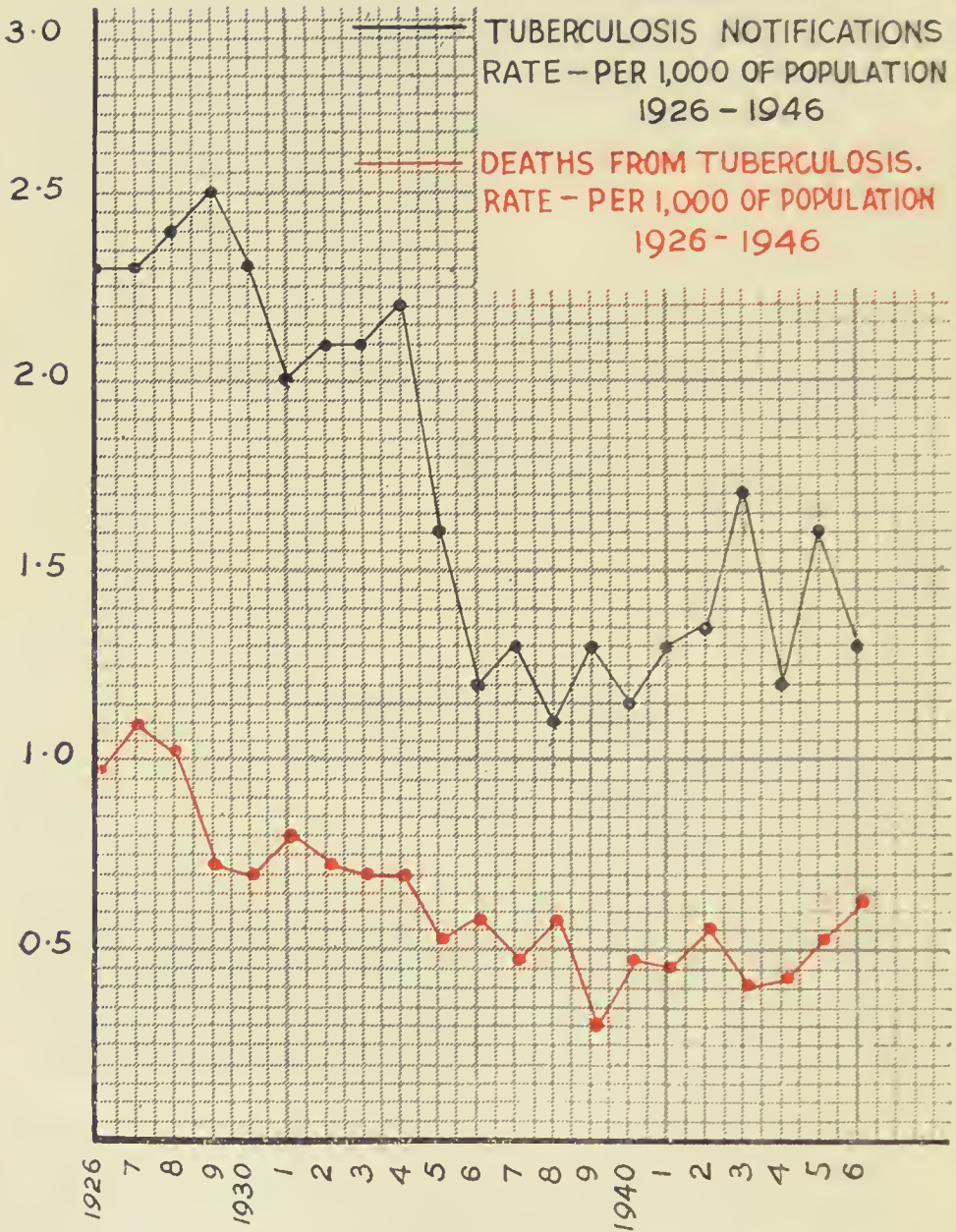
Diphtheria Immunisation.

Number of pre-school children innoculated ...	...	...	684
Number of school children innoculated ...	...	...	203
Number of maintenance doses given ...	...	...	739

Cerebro-Spinal Fever.—Four males and four females were notified during the year as suffering from Cerebro-Spinal Fever. All but one were removed to hospital. The diagnosis was confirmed in two cases only, a female, aged 22, who died at home, and a male, who received treatment at Parkhead Hospital, Dumfries, and who recovered.

Other Infectious Diseases.—There was nothing of special importance to record during the year regarding Measles, Whooping Cough or Infective Jaundice. There were no outbreaks of food poisoning.

Tuberculosis.—The number of primary notifications of persons suffering from Tuberculosis in any form was 80. This represents a rate of 1.3 per 1000 of the estimated population, and as will be seen from the graph below is about the average of the past 10 years.



The notifications are divided into sex and distribution of the disease as follows :—

Pulmonary Tuberculosis—Male	...	...	...	...	26
Female	...	...	...	...	28
					—
Total	...	...	...	...	54
					—

Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis—Male ...	...	...	...	...	12
Female ...	...	...	...	...	14
Total ...					26
All Forms—Male ...	...	...	...	...	38
Female ...	...	...	...	...	42
Total ...					80

In addition to these patients, 20 were transferred to the County from other areas or from the Services.

The death-rate from all forms of Tuberculosis was 0·63 per 1000 of the population. The Pulmonary and Non-pulmonary rates were 0·52 and 0·11 respectively. As the above graph shows, this is an increase on the higher death-rates recorded during the war years and is to be expected, as in Tuberculosis, there is frequently a considerable time-lag between notification and death.

Incidence in County Districts.

District.	Pulmonary.		Non-pulmonary.		Total.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Dumfries	2	4	1	2	9
Thornhill ...	3	5	2	3	13
Sanquhar ...	4	1	1	2	8
Annan ...	4	4	2	1	11
Grenta... ...	1	4	...	2	7
Lockerbie ...	6	5	2	2	15
Moffat ...	3	1	4	1	9
Langholm ...	3	4	...	1	8
Total ...	26	28	12	14	80

Quarterly Incidence.

Quarter.	Pulmonary.		Non-pulmonary.		Total.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
First ...	2	6	2	3	13
Second ...	8	1	2	3	14
Third ...	12	10	2	3	27
Fourth ...	4	11	6	5	26
Total ...	26	28	12	14	80

Treatment of Tuberculosis.

(a) In-patients.

The shortage of nursing staff continues to affect adversely the admission of patients to Lochmaben Sanatorium. Indeed, it is unreasonable to expect the present nursing staff, augmented as it is by the employment of male nurses, to be able to cope indefinitely with the number of patients undergoing treatment at present. To add to staffing difficulties, the number of patients attending the Sanatorium Out-patient Department has increased steadily in recent years, and with the development of contact examination a still greater strain will be placed upon the staff.

The following table refers to patients who received treatment at Lochmaben Sanatorium during the year :—

Age Group.		Sex.	In Sana- torium, 1/1/46.	Admitted during 1946.	Dis- charged.	Died.	In Sana- torium. 31/12/46.
Pulmonary.	Adult ...	M.	12	14	10	5	11
		F.	14	21	13	4	18
	Children ...	M.	0	4	2	0	2
		F.	1	5	2	0	4
Non- Pulmonary.	Adult ...	M.	2	1	0	0	3
		F.	4	2	5	1	0
	Children ...	M.	1	1	1	0	1
		F.	4	4	4	0	4
Total ...			38	52	37	10	43

Including patients receiving Sanatorium treatment, there were on the roll at the end of the year 267 persons resident in the County known to be suffering from Tuberculosis. The following table shows the classification of these patients according to localisation of the disease :

Pulmonary.		5	5-10	10-15	15-25	25-35	35-45	45-65	Over 65	Total
Sputum not present	M.	2	2	4	6	5	2	2	...	23
	F.	...	3	4	4	3	1	1	...	16
Sputum not examined	M.	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
	F.	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	1	4
Sputum positive	M.	...	...	...	7	15	2	15	3	42
	F.	...	...	...	7	17	8	12	1	45
Sputum negative	M.	...	...	...	...	4	1	7	...	12
	F.	...	...	1	4	4	2	6	...	17
Tuberculosis of abdomen	M.	...	2	4	1	1	...	...	...	8
	F.	...	3	2	2	5	1	2	...	15
Tuberculosis of spine	M.	...	...	1	1	2	...	3	1	8
	F.	...	...	1	...	2	2	1	...	6
Tuberculosis of bones and joints	M.	2	...	1	2	2	3	4	...	14
	F.	...	4	3	3	...	1	1	...	12
Tuberculosis of glands	M.	...	6	1	4	...	1	...	...	12
	F.	1	2	7	4	3	3	2	...	22
Lupus	M.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	F.	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	3
Tuberculosis of other organs	M.	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	2
	F.	...	...	...	3	...	1	1	...	5
Total		5	22	29	50	66	31	58	6	267

(b) Out-patients.

Number of attendances by patients at Lochmaben Sanatorium (O.P.D.) for refills of artificial pneumothorax	480
Visits to homes by Tuberculosis Officer	518
Visits to homes by Health Visitors and District Nurses	1427
Sputum examinations	122
X-ray examinations	180
Tuberculosis shelters in use	12
Patients receiving extra nourishment	70

Contact examinations—

Number of cases examined	...	...	...	...	83
Number of cases X-rayed	...	...	...	...	31
Number of contacts found to have Tuberculosis	...				5
Number of contacts requiring further observation	...				9

One reproach of our present anti-Tuberculosis work is that patients too often seek advice only when the disease is firmly established. By the end of 1946 well over one million civilians in Britain had been examined by miniature mass radiography. Of every thousand apparently healthy individuals so examined, forty were found to require further investigation, and of these five or six were suffering from active Pulmonary Tuberculosis. This finding was remarkably constant in different parts of the country. In most instances, those affected had no symptoms of disease and were in the early and curable stage. There is little likelihood of miniature mass radiography being available in rural areas like Dumfriesshire for a long time, so that an extension of the present system of examination of contacts will continue to be the most fruitful measure against Tuberculosis. Two adult contacts and one child received treatment for Tuberculosis at Lochmaben Sanatorium during the year.

Tuberculosis Maintenance Allowances.

This scheme continues to be of the greatest benefit to a very restricted number of patients suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Number of applications received from 1942—31/12/46	...	...	...	...	43
Number of applications withdrawn	...	...	...	...	4
Number of notifications rejected for medical reasons	...				13
Number of applications rejected for financial reasons	...				8
Number of applications granted	...	...	...	...	18

At the end of the year 9 patients were receiving payments.

Payments made during 1946	...	...	...	£430	1	4
Payments made since inception up to 31/12/46	...	£1108	6	1		

VENEREAL DISEASES.

During the year 305 new patients were examined at the Venereal Diseases Clinic—by far the greatest number of civilians seen at the Clinic in any year. The following table shows how the work at the Clinic has increased since 1939:

Year.	Syphilis.		Gonorrhœa.		N.-Sp. Ven.		Non-Ven.		Total.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
1939 ...	9	2	19	4	8	6	2	0	50
1940 ...	23	11	39	2	12	6	3	5	101
1941 ...	25	23	38	16	12	2	9	16	141
1942 ...	63	36	36	17	17	6	22	22	219
1943 ...	42	19	39	18	24	11	31	52	236
1944 ...	66	29	21	9	24	12	33	36	230
1945 ...	22	32	45	27	15	11	27	52	231
1946 ...	38	46	78	29	40	3	39	32	305

There is some doubt as to whether this increase is real or whether patients, who through education by the Press and particularly in the Services, realising the dangers of neglect, seek treatment for conditions that in former years they would have thought, in ignorance, of little account. It is encouraging to find that in each year the proportion of early cases increases and that the numbers of patients exposed to infection but not acquiring venereal disease show little evidence of falling-off. That the people are more educated in these matter cannot be doubted, but, as so often happens, the teaching reaches most easily those who least require it.

The work of the Clinic during the year is set out in the following tables:—

	Syphilis.		Gonor- rhœa.		Other Venereal Diseases.		Non- Venereal Diseases.		Total.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
On Register, 1/1/46	20	43	10	8	1	4	0	0	86
Transferred in from other Centres ...	16	3	20	1	4	1	0	0	45
New Cases ...	38	46	78	29	40	3	39	32	305
Defaulted ...	10	17	35	12	11	1	0	0	86
Transferred to other Centres ...	18	13	14	2	7	0	0	0	54
Discharged—Cured	2	2	39	21	19	5	39	32	159
Died ...	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Still attending. 31/12/46 ...	43	60	19	3	8	2	0	0	135
Total Attendances ...	487	1056	491	205	115	37	61	49	2504
Admitted for Indoor Treatment ...	27	30	1	0	2	1	0	0	61
Number of Days' Residence ...	446	591	7	0	20	11	0	0	1075

Area.	Syphilis.	Gonorrhœa.	Other Venereal Diseases.	Not Venereal Disease.	Number of Out-Patient Attendances.	Number of In-Patient Days.
Dumfries Burgh ...	66	63	23	30	1218	356
Dumfries County ...	48	46	14	22	816	189
Kirkcudbright County ...	26	22	11	12	304	255
Wigtown County ...	26	15	5	7	166	251

In both males and females suffering from Gonorrhœa, treatment by the Sulphonamide drugs has given place to Penicillin Therapy. It was found that, while Sulphonamides effected a cure in a great number of cases, in time the proportion lessened as more and more patients became infected with strains of the disease-producing germs which were resistance to the action of the drug. During 1946 adequate supplies of Penicillin became available, and this drug is now used almost exclusively at Kirkbank Clinic in the treatment of all forms of Gonorrhœa. The results have been entirely satisfactory. Although the actual treatment occupies one or, at the most, two days, and an apparent cure is obtained in 3-4 days, the patient is kept under observation for six months so that complete cure can be confirmed and the possibility of Syphilis, acquired at the same time as the gonorrhœal infection, excluded. This period of surveillance is irksome to many patients and, though the reason is carefully explained to each one, the high rate of defaulters is disturbing.

Penicillin also has revolutionised the treatment of Syphilis. It is the practice now at Kirkbank Clinic, once the diagnosis of Syphilis is made, whether in the early communicable stages, in congenital forms of the disease or in the late stages of the disease when the indication is there, to have the patient admitted to Edinburgh Royal Infirmary for intensive treatment with Penicillin. This treatment lasts for 12-14 days. Supplementary

treatment at twice weekly intervals is maintained at Kirkbank Clinic for varying periods depending upon the stage of the disease, and thereafter the patient reports for observation so that the efficacy of the treatment can be assured. In this way the duration of treatment can be reduced by many months, but the chief merit is that a complete cure can be made much more certain. There are very few defaulters amongst those patients who received in-patient treatment at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary. It would seem that the educative value of in-patient treatment is of the greatest benefit.

I am indebted to Dr M'Murtrie, Cumberland Infirmary, Carlisle, for the information that 37 patients from Dumfriesshire received treatment for Venereal Disease at the out-patient clinic there during 1946. Thirty of the patients were males and seven females. In all, they made 268 attendances. In addition, one male and one female received in-patient treatment, each being retained for five days.

DEFENCE REGULATION 33 B.

Double Contact Notices.

Two persons were informed against by two or more patients found to be suffering from venereal disease. One contact was referred to another local authority and the other, when summoned for examination, was found to require treatment for venereal disease.

Single Contact Notices.

No. of persons in respect of whom single notices were received	M.	F.
... ..	3	9
No. who attended for medical examination	3	7
No. found to be suffering from venereal disease	3	6
No. who undertook treatment	3	6

I doubt if the powers conferred by the Regulation do much to curb the incidence of venereal diseases. Since its inception in 1942 only 4 persons have been informed against by two or more patients suffering from venereal disease, and in only one instance was any difficulty experienced in bringing the contact for examination and subsequent treatment. The tracing of contacts is a most important part of the services given by the Venereal Diseases Clinic at any time, and the powers given by Defence Regulation 33B have not facilitated this work to any extent.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The following statistics relating to Maternity and Child Welfare Services are set out as requested by the Department of Health :—

1. BIRTHS.

- (a) The total number of births occurring in the area during the year was 678, of which 17 were still-births. The number of births ascribed to the area was 1088, including 41 still-births. 482 births ascribed to the County took place at Cresswell Counties Maternity Hospital.
- (b) The number of births occurring in the area, classified according to the nature of attendance at confinement :—
- (i) Maternity Services Scheme cases. There is no Maternity Services Scheme in operation in this County.
- (ii) Other domiciliary cases—
- | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (a) with doctor | ... | ... | ... | ... | 526 |
| (b) with midwife alone | ... | ... | ... | ... | 48 |
| (c) conducted by out-door staff of institution | ... | ... | ... | ... | nil |
| (d) without doctor or midwife | ... | ... | ... | ... | nil |
- (iii) Institutional cases (including private maternity and nursing homes) 104

2. HOME VISITATION DURING YEAR.

	No. visited for first time.				Total visits.
Expectant Mothers	622		2,261
Infants	1,195		10,580
Children (1-5 years)	318		10,476

3. ANTE-NATAL AND POST-NATAL CLINICS.

- (i) One ante-natal and one post-natal clinic is held each week at Cresswell Counties Maternity Hospital.
- (ii) There are no clinics in the area maintained by voluntary bodies.
- (iii) During the year 400 women attended the ante-natal clinics, making 1211 attendances. 143 visits were made to the post-natal clinics by 143 women.

4. CHILD WELFARE CLINICS.

No clinics were provided in the area by the local authority or by voluntary bodies.

5. SPECIAL TREATMENT CENTRES.

There are no special treatment centres in the area. During the year 64 pre-school children were admitted to Dumfries Infirmary for tonsillectomy under the local authority's scheme, and one child, suffering from an orthopaedic condition, was admitted to the Princess Margaret Rose Hospital for treatment.

6. MOTHER AND BABY HOMES.

There are no Mother and Baby Homes in the County.

7. RESIDENTIAL NURSERIES AND CHILDREN'S HOMES.

There are no institutions of this kind in the County.

8. HOME AND DOMESTIC HELPS.

No home or domestic helps were employed during the year.

TREATMENT OF DIABETES.

Twelve patients suffering from Diabetes were supplied with insulin at a cost of £52 4s 4d.

TREATMENT OF CANCER.

Eleven patients were accepted for in-patient treatment of Cancer as follows :—

	Male.	Female.	No. of Admissions.
Admitted to Glasgow Western Infirmary	2	6	12
Admitted to Cumberland Infirmary, Carlisle	1	...	1
Admitted to Shotley Bridge Hospital, Durham	1	1	2

HOSPITALS.

The work of the Infectious Diseases Hospitals at Lochmaben, Thornhill and Annan during 1946 is shewn in the following tables. It was decided to convert Annan Infectious Diseases Hospital into a Children's Home, and towards the end of the year the Hospital was closed to allow of the necessary alterations being made.

Lochmaben I.D. Hospital.

Disease.	Admitted.	Dis- charged.	Died.	In Hospital. 31/12/46.	No. of In-patient days.
Scarlet Fever	41	36	...	5	935
Diphtheria ...	44	42	1	1	1154
Pneumonia ...	13	12	...	1	208
Meningitis ...	6	4	2	...	83
Erysipelas ...	2	2	...	...	22
Other Diseases	6	5	1	...	61
Total ...	112	101	4	7	2463

Thornhill I.D. Hospital.

Disease.	Admitted.	Dis- charged.	Died.	In Hospital. 31/12/46.	No. of In-patient days.
Scarlet Fever	4	3	...	1	111
Diphtheria ...	28	28	...	...	856
Pneumonia ...	15	12	1	2	246
Erysipelas ...	1	1	...	...	38
Other Diseases	8	8	...	...	116
Total ...	56	52	1	3	1367

Annan I.D. Hospital.

Disease.	Admitted.	Dis- charged.	Died.	In Hospital. 31/12/46.	No. of In-patient days.
Scarlet Fever	28	28	...	...	762
Diphtheria ...	1	1	...	...	3
Pneumonia ...	1	1	...	...	8
Other Diseases	4	4	...	...	32
Total ...	34	34	...	...	805

Report of School Medical Inspection

For the Year ending 31st July, 1946.

1. List of Staff.

See beginning of this Report.

2. General Statistics.

Population of County and Small Burghs	...	...	...	57,152
Population of Burgh of Dumfries	...	...	...	25,800
Total	...	...	...	82,952

Number of Schools—

(a) Primary	} Under the County Council	...	...	92
(b) Secondary		...	...	92
(c) (i) Special Schools	...	...	...	—
(ii) Special Classes in Ordinary Schools	...	...	...	16
(d) In receipt of grant from Education Authority	...	...	...	92
and under medical inspection	...	...	...	92
Number of children on the registers	...	...	...	11,845
Number of children in average attendance	...	...	...	10,660

3. Sanitary Condition of Schools.

No systematic survey was taken of school buildings this year, owing to post-war conditions, but the usual inspection of closets was carried out and recommendations made where necessary.

4. Organisation and Administration.

A. SYSTEM AND EXTENT OF MEDICAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT.

Every school in the County was visited for routine inspection twice during the year at a reasonable interval.

Children examined at routine inspections were as follows :—

1. All infant entrants in attendance.
2. All entrants from other counties not in possession of a school medical card.
3. All children in attendance born in 1936, 1932, and 1929.
4. Children missed through absence at previous age-groups.

The above children have a complete examination.

5. Children born in 1939, and those missed in the previous year, for vision testing only.
6. All children in attendance who had been found at a previous inspection to be suffering from a defect, or were verminous (" re-inspections ").
7. Children presented by the parent, teacher, nurse, or school medical officer for some special reason (" special cases ").

Special visits were paid to schools when necessary for the purpose of mental testing, suspected infectious conditions, or any other specific purpose. Visits are also paid for the purpose of diphtheria immunisation.

The homes of all children not on the school roll were visited, and in other cases for the purpose of seeing children thought to be unable to attend or walk to school.

The only treatment carried out by the Medical Staff is the refraction work and provision of glasses. Specialist treatment is available for children suffering from conditions of the ear, nose, and throat ; of the eye and vision ; from orthopaedic and certain surgical conditions ; and ringworm of the scalp.

B. SYSTEM AND EXTENT OF DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT.

C. SCHOOL NURSING AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR FOLLOWING-UP.

The School Nursing Staff consists of 22 District Nurses, 2 County Health Visitors, and 2 Dumfries Burgh Health Visitors, all of whom are employed part-time for school work.

Nurses attend the school inspections unless more urgent district work prevents them doing so.

Nurses are available to pay visits to schools at other times as occasion demands in connection with infectious conditions or cases of uncleanness.

D. CO-ORDINATION WITH THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE AND WITH OTHER DEPARTMENTS OF THE AUTHORITY WHICH RENDER SERVICES TO CHILDREN.

As the Chief School Medical Officer is also the County Medical Officer of Health and Chief Public Assistance Officer, and as all his departments are housed in the same building, the co-ordination is complete both as regards school children and

pre-school children. Co-ordination with Dumfries Burgh is effected through health visitors, who have charge of all school nursing and follow-up work within the burgh.

E. CO-OPERATION WITH VOLUNTARY BODIES AND OTHER OUTSIDE AGENCIES.

So far as possible co-operation was maintained with local voluntary bodies.

F. CO-OPERATION WITH TEACHERS AND PARENTS, ETC.

With regard to routine inspections, all arrangements are made through the head teacher, and all information from the parents comes through him. Parents are invited to be present at all routine examinations of their children. Notice of defects is sent in writing to the parent through the head teacher.

6. Medical Treatment.

A. MINOR AILMENTS.

(1), (2) and (3) Treated by Family Doctor, District Nurse, or Health Visitor ; no record of numbers kept.

(4) Diseases of the Skin—

Ringworm (Scalp), 2.

Ringworm (Body)—as for (1), (2) and (3).

Scabies—as for (1), (2) and (3). Two children admitted to hospital.

Impetigo—as for (1), (2) and (3). Three children admitted to hospital.

B. DEFECTIVE VISION AND SQUINT.	Under County Council's Scheme.	Otherwise.
Number of Retinoscopies performed, 248.		
Provision of Spectacles	167	10
Cases referred to Consulting Ophthalmologist	77	—

Squints are treated by provision of glasses, by total occlusion where necessary, and by operation.

C. NOSE AND THROAT (Operative Treatment), 430. In addition; 98 children were referred to Ear, Nose and Throat Consultant for his opinion.

D. ORTHOPÆDIC DEFECTS (Specialist Treatment), 32.

7. Dental Inspection and Treatment.

8. Special Schools and Classes.

There are no special schools in the County.

(a) Physically Defective Children—

Transport to ordinary school, or home tuition arranged in appropriate cases.

(b) Blind and Partially Sighted Children—

Blind children sent to institutions.

Partially sighted attend ordinary schools.

(c) Deaf, Partially Deaf, and Deaf Mute Children—

Partially deaf attend ordinary schools and are given a favoured position in the class. Others are sent to institutions for special teaching.

(d) Mentally Defective Children (Three Special Classes)—

						Roll.	
						Boys.	Girls.
Dumfries	...	...	...	...	...	23	18
Annan	...	...	...	...	...	6	9
Lockerbie	...	...	...	...	...	6	1
						—	—
						35	28
						63	
Total	...	...	...	...	...

(e) Retarded Children (Thirteen Classes)—

							Roll.
Loreburn-S. John's (4)	...	...	...	...	...	...	129
St. Andrew's Boys'	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Annan Academy	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
Gretna Township	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Hoddam	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Kirkconnel	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
Langholm Academy	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Lockerbie Academy	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Moffat Academy	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Wallace Hall Academy	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
							—
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	335
							—

HOLIDAY AND CONVALESCENT HOMES—None.

9. Arrangements for Physical Education and Personal Hygiene.

A. ACCOMMODATION.

No systematic survey has been carried out since the year 1938-39 ; figures will be much the same as noted in the report for that year, except possibly those for shoes and clothing.

During the year 1944-45 the School Medical Officer visited all post-primary schools in the County for the purpose of seeing classes at physical instruction. This experience was considered valuable.

B. There are no Swimming Baths in the area.

C. No survey taken. Figures likely to be similar to those in report for year 1938-39.

D. SCHOOL CAMPS.

Two hundred and fifty children aged 10-12 were in residence for two weeks at Glengonar Camp, Abington.

E. PRACTICAL INSTRUCTION IN PERSONAL AND COMMUNAL HYGIENE.

This is in the hands of the teachers, and takes place mainly in the classes of domestic science and physical instruction.

Infant teachers pay particular attention to the training of their children in health-forming habits.

10. OTHER ACTIVITIES IN RELATION TO THE HEALTH OF SCHOOL CHILDREN.

No special investigations were carried out..

Table II.—SYSTEMATIC

RETURN OF NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF INDIVIDUAL

NATURE OF DEFECT.	Total examined at all ages.	ENTRANTS.			
		Boys.		Girls.	
		No.	%	No.	%
1. CLOTHING UNSATISFACTORY	Boys 1862 Girls 1591	1	0.15	2	0.25
2. FOOTGEAR UNSATISFACTORY ... ..	...	...	...	...	...
3. UNCLEANLINESS ... ..	...	31	4.65	70	13.30
4. SKIN.					
(a) Head—					
Ringworm ... ..	...	...	...	...	...
Impetigo ... ..	...	6	0.90	2	0.25
Other Diseases ... ..	...	15	6.25	3	0.57
(b) Body—					
Ringworm ... ..	...	1	0.15	...	...
Impetigo ... ..	...	1	0.15	2	0.33
Scabies ... ..	...	5	0.75	5	0.95
Other Diseases ... ..	...	19	2.85	12	2.25
5. NUTRITIONAL STATE.					
Slightly Defective ... ..	...	135	20.25	116	22.04
Bad ... ..	...	...	...	2	0.38
6. MOUTH AND TEETH.					
Unhealthy ... ..	...	20	3.0	17	3.23
7. NASO-PHARYNX.					
(a) Nose—					
i. Obstruction requiring observation ... ..	...	45	6.75	18	3.42
ii. Obstruction requiring operation ... ..	...	17	2.55	14	2.66
iii. Other conditions ... ..	...	10	1.50	2	0.38
(b) Throat—					
i. Tonsils requiring observation ... ..	...	75	10.25	51	9.69
ii. Tonsils requiring operation ... ..	...	20	3.00	17	3.23
(c) Glands—					
i. Requiring observation ... ..	...	8	1.20	4	0.76
ii. Requiring operation ... ..	...	...	...	...	...
8. EYES.					
(a) External Diseases—					
Blepharitis ... ..	...	5	0.75	4	0.76
Conjunctivitis ... ..	...	1	0.15	3	0.57
Corneal Opacities ... ..	...	2	0.30	...	...
Strabismus ... ..	...	18	2.70	15	2.85
Other Diseases ... ..	...	4	0.60	4	0.76
(b) Visual Acuity —					
6/6 ; 6/9 ; 6/12	Boys 1685 Girls 1559	413	...	410	...
6/18 or worse ... ..	...	32	...	45	...
Bad in One Eye ... ..	...	33	...	35	...

EXAMINATIONS.

CHILDREN IN EACH AGE-GROUP SUFFERING FROM PARTICULAR DEFECTS :—

SECOND AGE-GROUP.				THIRD AGE-GROUP.				FOURTH AGE-GROUP.				ALL AGES.			
Boys.		Girls.		Boys.		Girls.		Boys.		Girls.		Boys.		Girls.	
No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1	0.18	1	0.20	...	...	2	0.38	...	...	...	...	2	0.10	5	0.30
2	0.36	2	0.40	1	0.17	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	0.15	2	0.12
17	3.06	90	18.00	18	3.06	80	15.20	...	...	1	1.50	66	3.30	2411	4.46
...
...	...	1	0.20	1	0.17	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	0.35	3	0.18
12	2.16	3	0.60	8	1.36	5	0.95	3	5.70	4	6.00	38	1.90	15	0.90
...	...	1	0.20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	0.05	1	0.06
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	0.05	2	0.12
4	0.72	2	0.40	4	0.68	4	0.76	...	...	...	...	13	0.65	11	0.66
17	3.06	8	1.60	15	2.55	9	1.71	3	5.70	4	6.00	54	2.70	33	1.98
113	20.34	77	15.4	121	20.57	103	19.57	2	3.80	4	6.00	371	19.92	300	18.85
10	1.80	2	0.40	1	0.17	5	0.95	...	...	...	...	11	0.55	7	0.42
148	26.64	133	36.6	122	20.74	131	24.89	7	13.30	18	27.0	297	15.95	299	18.79
14	2.52	4	0.80	12	20.4	1	0.19	...	...	1	1.50	71	3.55	24	1.44
5	0.90	6	1.20	1	0.17	2	0.38	...	...	...	...	23	1.15	22	1.32
5	0.90	2	0.40	2	0.34	1	0.19	...	...	...	...	17	0.85	5	0.30
21	4.78	35	7.00	29	5.14	31	5.89	...	...	4	6.00	125	6.25	121	7.26
12	2.16	16	3.20	4	0.68	8	1.52	...	...	...	...	36	1.80	41	2.46
2	0.36	4	0.80	1	0.15	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	0.55	8	0.48
...
6	1.08	2	0.40	6	1.02	3	0.57	...	...	...	...	17	0.85	9	0.54
...	...	...	...	...	...	1	0.19	...	...	...	...	1	0.05	4	0.24
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	0.10	...	...
9	1.62	2	0.40	3	0.51	1	0.19	...	...	...	...	30	1.50	18	1.08
4	0.72	2	0.40	4	0.68	1	0.19	...	...	...	...	12	0.60	7	0.42
512	...	445	...	547	...	460	...	42	...	56	...	1514	89.32	1371	87.95
15	...	11	...	12	...	28	...	3	...	3	...	62	3.91	87	5.58
36	...	36	...	33	...	25	...	7	...	5	...	109	6.77	101	6.47

Table II.—SYSTEMATIC

RETURN OF NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF INDIVIDUAL

NATURE OF DEFECT.	Total examined at all ages.	ENTRANTS.			
		Boys.		Girls.	
		No.	%	No.	%
9. EARS.					
(a) Diseases—					
Otorrhœa	Boys 1862	2	0.30	2	0.35
	Girls 1591				
Other Diseases ... ..	...	3	0.45	3	0.57
(b) Hearing—					
Grade I. ... ..	...	2	0.30	3	0.57
Grade II.a ... ..	...	...	...	1	0.19
Grade II.b ... ..	...	...	...	...	...
Grade III. ... ..	...	...	...	...	...
10. SPEECH.					
Defective Articulation ... ..	...	19	2.85	6	1.14
Stammering ... ..	...	2	0.30	2	0.38
11. MENTAL AND NERVOUS CONDITION.					
(a) Backward ... ..	...	...	...	...	...
(b) Dull ... ..	...	5	0.75	3	0.57
(c) Mentally Defective (educable) ... ..	...	...	...	...	...
(d) Mentally Defective (ineducable) ... ..	...	...	...	...	...
(e) Highly Nervous or Unstable ... ..	...	1	0.15	...	...
(f) Difficult in Behaviour ... ..	...	1	0.15	1	0.19
12. CIRCULATORY SYSTEM.					
(a) Organic Heart Disease —					
i. Congenital ... ..	...	1	0.15	...	...
ii. Acquired ... ..	...	7	1.05	2	0.38
(b) Functional Conditions ... ..	...	29	4.35	30	5.70
(c) Anaemia ... ..	...	20	3.0	6	1.14
13. LUNGS.					
Chronic Bronchitis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...
Suspected Tuberculosis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...
Other Diseases ... ..	...	24	3.60	11	2.09
14. DEFORMITIES.					
(a) Congenital ... ..	...	6	0.90	4	0.76
(b) Acquired (Infantile Paralysis) ... ..	...	...	...	...	...
(c) Acquired (probably Rickets) ... ..	...	8	1.20	...	...
(d) Acquired (Other Causes) ... ..	...	1	0.15	...	...
(e) Postural Defects ... ..	...	...	...	5	0.95
15. INFECTIOUS DISEASES ... ..	...	1	0.15	4	0.76
16. OTHER DISEASES OR DEFECTS ... ..	...	9	1.35	15	2.85

EXAMINATIONS (continued).

CHILDREN IN EACH AGE-GROUP SUFFERING FROM PARTICULAR DEFECTS:—

SECOND AGE-GROUP.				THIRD AGE-GROUP.				FOURTH AGE-GROUP.				ALL AGES.			
Boys.		Girls.		Boys.		Girls.		Boys.		Girls.		Boys.		Girls.	
No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
2	0.36	2	0.40	2	0.34	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	0.30	4	0.24
3	0.54	...	...	4	0.68	...	...	1	1.90	...	...	11	0.55	3	0.18
4	0.72	...	...	1	0.17	1	0.19	...	...	...	...	7	0.35	4	0.24
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	0.06
...
...
3	0.54	...	...	2	0.34	...	...	...	...	...	...	24	1.20	6	0.36
4	0.72	...	...	3	0.51	1	0.19	...	...	...	...	9	0.45	3	0.18
...
11	1.98	3	0.60	8	1.36	1	0.19	...	...	...	...	24	1.20	7	0.42
3	0.54	2	0.40	2	0.34	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	0.25	2	0.12
...
...	...	...	...	1	0.17	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	0.10	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	0.05	1	0.06
...
...	...	1	0.20	2	0.34	1	0.19	...	...	...	...	3	0.15	2	0.12
7	1.26	1	0.20	10	1.70	2	0.38	...	...	...	...	24	1.20	5	0.30
27	4.86	12	2.40	16	2.72	31	5.89	...	...	4	6.0	72	3.60	77	4.62
8	1.44	1	0.20	4	0.68	5	0.95	1	1.90	2	3.0	33	1.65	14	0.84
...
4	0.72	1	0.20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	0.20	1	0.06
...	...	3	0.60	1	0.17	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	0.05	3	0.18
14	2.52	11	2.20	10	1.70	2	0.38	1	1.90	...	...	49	2.45	24	1.44
...
3	0.54	2	0.40	3	0.31	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	0.60	6	0.36
1	0.18	1	0.20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	0.05	1	0.06
9	1.62	4	0.80	4	0.68	...	...	...	...	...	...	21	1.05	4	0.24
4	0.72	8	1.60	5	0.85	3	0.57	1	1.90	1	1.50	11	0.55	12	0.72
5	0.90	14	2.80	11	1.87	9	1.71	...	...	1	1.50	16	0.90	29	2.34
...	...	1	0.20	1	0.17	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	0.10	5	0.30
15	2.70	5	1.00	13	2.21	15	2.85	2	3.80	4	6.0	39	1.95	39	2.34

Table III.—SYSTEMATIC MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS.

CLASSIFICATION.	ENTRANTS.		SECOND AGE-GROUP.		THIRD AGE-GROUP.		FOURTH AGE-GROUP.		TOTAL.	
	Number of Children.	Per-centage.	Number of Children.	Per-centage.	Number of Children.	Per-centage.	Number of Children.	Per-centage.	Number of Children.	Per-centage.
I.	522	44.35	456	43.22	507	45.88	61	52.58	1546	44.77
II. (a)	...	...	23	...	28	...	6	...	57	...
(b)	22	...	158	...	132	...	13	...	325	...
(c)	...	...	9	...	3	...	1	...	13	...
Total	22	1.87	190	18.00	163	14.75	20	17.24	395	11.44
III. ...	192	16.31	91	8.62	85	7.69	10	8.62	378	10.94
IV. (a)	403	...	272	...	296	...	22	...	993	...
(b)	38	...	46	...	54	...	3	...	141	...
Total	441	37.46	318	30.14	350	31.67	25	21.55	1134	32.84
Total number of children examined	1177	...	1055	...	1105	...	116	...	3453	...

Table IV.

RETURN OF EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN OF SCHOOL AGE IN
THE AREA.

DISABILITY.	At Ordinary Schools.	At Special Classes.	At no School or Institution.	TOTAL.
1. Blind ... ..	...	...	...	...
2. Partially Sighted	4	...	...	4
3. Deaf—				
Grade I.	14	...	...	14
Grade II.a	2	...	...	2
Grade II.b ... ..	...	...	...	...
Grade III. ... ..	...	...	2*	...
4. Defective Speech—				
(a) Defective Articulation	30	...	...	30
(b) Stammering	12	...	...	12
5. Mentally Defective (5-16 years)—				
(a) Educable	17	63	3	83
(b) Ineducable	3	...	15	18
6. Epilepsy—				
(a) Mild	4	...	...	4
(b) Severe	1	1	2	4
7. Physically Defective—				
(a) Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	9	...	2	11
(b) General Orthopædic Conditions	26	...	3	29
(c) Organic Heart Disease	36	1	...	37
(d) Other Causes of Ill-health ... ..	...	...	2	2

* On waiting list for institution.

DENTAL INSPECTION, AND TREATMENT OF SCHOOL CHILDREN.

During the year all schools in the County have been visited for Dental Inspection and Treatment. The following schools have been visited twice :—

Penpont.	Moniaive.	Moffat Academy.
Hutton Hall.	Crossford.	Durisdeer.
Carronbridge.	Tynron Upper.	Holywood.
Ruthwell.	Sanquhar Academy.	Keir.
Mouswald.	Woodside.	Kirkconnel.
Collin.	Davington	Barndennoch.
Brydekirk.	Gretna Publie.	Hutton.
Kirkpatrick-Fleming.	Langholm Academy.	Eskdalemuir.
Half-Morton.	Eastriggs.	Breconbeds.
Torthorwald.	Hoddom.	Corrie.
Tundergarth.	Dalton.	Sibbaldbie.
Lockerbie Academy.	Dalswinton.	Trailtrow.
Duncow.		

(1) Number of children Inspected :—

(a) Routine age-groups.																	Total.
Age	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18			
	968	991	1048	1049	1152	1080	1280	992	1034	508	220	103	51	9			10485
(b) Specials.																	
	1	5	9	2	6	9	4	8	15	4	3	1	...	...			67
	969	996	1057	1051	1158	1089	1284	1000	1049	512	223	104	51	9			10552

(2) Number requiring Treatment 5741

(2a) Number accepting Treatment 3217

Number of children Reinspected :—

(a) Routine age-groups.																Total.
Age	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16				
	347	373	381	382	387	391	433	333	338	119	36	...	...	...	3520	
(b) Specials.																
	1	1	1	2	4	4	2	2	5	2	1	1	...	...	26	
	348	374	382	384	391	395	435	335	343	121	37	1	...	...	3546	

(3) Number Treated 4107

(4) Number of attendances made for Treatment 4454

(5) Fillings (a) Permanent Teeth 2465

(b) Temporary Teeth 263

(6) Extractions (a) Permanent Teeth 594

(b) Temporary Teeth 3116

(7) Administration of General Anaesthetics

(8) Other Operations (a) Permanent Teeth 517

(b) Temporary Teeth 69

Orthodontic Appliances	...	...	...	...	8
Partial Upper Dentures	...	...	...	...	2
Acrylic Jacket Crowns	...	...	...	...	3

LABORATORY REPORTS.

A. CHEMICAL LABORATORY.

In the Laboratory, which meets the administrative requirements of the three Counties, chemical and other examinations are made, not only on behalf of the Local Authorities, but also for approved institutions and private individuals. Analyses under the latter heading form only a small proportion of the total.

The work includes the examination of water—for sanitary fitness or other purposes—sewage and sewage effluent, milk for compliance with the various Orders; food and drugs, fertilisers and feeding stuffs under their respective Statutes and Orders; tar for road purposes; and sundry other substances which may call for special treatment.

From time to time the opinion of the Laboratory is sought in problems of a widely varying nature which arise in the course of the various activities of the Local Authority. Some of these may call for advice, others may involve a considerable amount of investigation before any report can be made.

During the year a total of 3079 samples were submitted. Details of the source of these are given in Appendix I.

ANALYSES MADE FOR THE COUNTY COUNCILS.

(a) Dumfriesshire.

Samples submitted by the Public Health Department are mainly of water and milk.

WATER—POTABLE.

(a) District Supplies.

Regular examinations are made of these supplies and also of samples from the Burghs of Annan, Langholm, Lockerbie, and Moffat.

Seventy-six other samples examined for potability had reference to proposed new supplies or to complaints regarding existing ones. None presented any feature of special interest, although 9 samples from 8 sources contained Lead in amounts varying from .003 to .048 parts per 100,000, and one from a hot

water tap contained .084 parts Lead, with some Zinc and abundant compounds of Iron. This sample had an acid reaction, and it was obvious that the water was attacking not only Lead but also Galvanised Iron pipes and fittings.

Eight samples contained Zinc in amount varying from .005 to .92 parts. The proportion of samples containing Zinc has increased in recent years, presumably due to an increased use of Galvanised Iron fittings.

WATER—RIVER.

Two series of samples were taken from the burn receiving the waste from vegetable washing and peeling machines at Dornock Cooking Centre. The analyses showed that prior to receiving these liquors the water in the burn had a Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand of .1 to .2 parts per 100,000—that is to say, according to the classification suggested in the 8th Report of the Royal Commission on Sewage Disposal, it fell between the categories “very clean” and “clean.” Immediately after receiving these liquors the stream had a Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand of 25, or, according to the same classification, lay between an “average” and a “strong” Septic Tank Liquor.

When it joined the Dornock Burn, by reason of the natural self-purifying agencies, the Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand had fallen to 15. Shortly below the confluence the condition of the burn was satisfactory.

Another series taken two days after the Cooking Centre closed afforded evidence of the continued polluting effect of this discharge, but the Dornock Burn below the confluence was a “clean” river.

The disposal of these highly putrescible liquors presents no great difficulty in cities, but in rural areas where large sewage disposal works are not available the problem is acute. It also arises near vegetable canning factories. Recent researches, however, indicate that careful screening followed by sedimentation is the most satisfactory method of dealing with these liquors.

Two surveys were made of Auchencrieff Loch, as industrial use may shortly be made of this water. It was found that both the in-flowing and the out-flowing water, and also that of the loch itself, had Bio-chemical Oxygen Demands of .06 to

·22 parts per 100,000 (Mean ·12), *i.e.* they consisted of "very clean" to "clean" water.

MILK.

One thousand six hundred and forty-one samples received from the Dairy Inspector were examined for Milk Fat. A summary of these results in the form of monthly averages is given in Table 1. For convenience of comparison, the figures for 1945 and for 1939 are included.

Table 1.					
			1946.	1945.	1939.
January ...	...	...	3·91%	3·93%	4·04%
February...	...	...	3·89%	3·95%	4·14%
March ...	...	...	3·85%	3·86%	3·90%
April ...	...	...	3·76%	3·77%	3·96%
May ...	...	...	3·61%	3·64%	3·61%
June ...	...	...	3·65%	3·67%	3·76%
July ...	...	...	3·80%	3·72%	3·91%
August ...	...	...	3·77%	3·76%	3·94%
September	...	...	4·01%	4·03%	4·21%
October ...	...	...	4·08%	4·01%	4·25%
November	...	...	4·07%	4·01%	4·25%
December	...	...	4·06%	3·99%	4·16%
Year ...	...	...	3·87%	3·86%	4·00%

The averages differ little from those of 1945, and are only slightly less than those obtained in 1939. 51 samples, low in Milk Fat, all contained more than 8·5% of Non-Fatty Solids.

Complete chemical examination was made of 42 samples of Milk supplied to the schools. With few exceptions these were satisfactory. The Fat Content averaged 3·77%—extremes 1·9%–5·3%. One sample, however, with over 4% of Fat contained 10% of added water. In 7 samples taken in April the Non-Fatty Solids fell below the 8·5% limit of the Sale of Milk Regulations. Freezing Point determinations showed that in every case the deficiency was due to natural causes.

The Phosphatase Test, recently introduced, is used to determine the adequacy or otherwise of Heat-treatment.

According to the intensity of the blue colour, produced under the controlled conditions of the test, and measured in Lovibond Units, using a comparator, heat-treated milk is classified as (1) sufficiently heat-treated, (2) insufficiently heat-treated, or (3) grossly undertreated.

Of 13 samples examined, 10 had been sufficiently heat-treated.

The remaining 3 had been "grossly undertreated," but came from a Creamery where "teething" troubles were being encountered with a new plant.

FOOD AND DRUGS.

One hundred and fifty-five samples received from the Inspector appointed under the Food and Drugs Act* are considered later together with similar samples from Kirkcudbrightshire and Wigtownshire.

FERTILISERS AND FEEDING STUFFS.

Eleven Fertilisers and 6 Feeding Stuffs were received. The Fertilisers consisted of 6 Mixed Manures, 2 samples of Muriate of Potash, and 1 each of Superphosphate, Sulphate of Ammonia and Ground Lime.

Three of the Manures were deficient in Soluble Phosphoric Acid but had a compensating excess of Insoluble Phosphoric Acid, while another was deficient in Nitrogen. The remainder were in accordance with the seller's guarantee. A sample of Balancer Meal was deficient in both Oil and Albuminoids, but the remaining Feeding Stuffs were satisfactory, 2 samples of Linseed Cake actually containing a considerable excess of Oil—a not unusual feature with this material.

MISCELLANEOUS.

These included 11 sample of Road Tar and one of Bitumen submitted by the County Roads Department. The samples of Tar complied with the British Standard Specification for road purposes.

The contents of an envelope referred to as "Ingredients" consisted of a mixture of flour and animal excreta—probably that of the rat. The flour had been supplied to a householder within the County.

Examination of a kettle and contents received from the Chief Constable supported the suggestion that a bottle containing a stick of Caustic Potash had fallen or been put into the kettle. The circumstances did not warrant the institution of proceedings.

Table 2 shows the various samples examined on behalf of Dumfriesshire County Council.

Table 2.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Water—Potable.							
(a) S.W. Supplies	...	...	...	...	...	92	
(b) Others...	...	...	...	...	...	76	
River Water	...	...	...	...	...	30	
						—	198
Milk—Full Chemical Examination							
Fat	...	...	...	...	...	1535	
Fat and Phosphatase	...	...	...	...	...	13	
						—	1641
†Road Tar	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Miscellaneous—"Ingredients"							
Liquid	...	...	...	...	...	1	
						—	2
*Food and Drugs	...	...	...	...	...	...	155
*Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
							2025

* County of Dumfries and Burgh Joint Committee.

† Roads Department.

(b) Kirkcudbright County Council.

One hundred and thirty-three samples of Water were received. Of these, 80 were reported as suitable for dietetic purposes, although in some cases filtration was recommended, 10 were of doubtful quality, while 28 were unsatisfactory. One sample had a hardness of 38 parts per 100,000—an unusually high figure in this County.

In 11 instances examinations were restricted to a search for Lead and Zinc. The presence of Lead was noted in 16 samples—in one case as much as 3·2 parts per 100,000. This sample came from a well supplying a shooting lodge used at infrequent intervals. Vigorous pumping reduced the amount of Lead to ·3 part, but the water in the well itself contained ·005 part, derived presumably from the tail pipe. In other 3 instances the amount of Lead present exceeded the usually accepted limit of ·05 part per 100,000, but subsequent examinations of water which had been allowed to remain in contact with the pipes overnight indicated that this had been either a passing phase or that effective treatment had been applied.

Twelve samples from 7 sources contained Zinc in amounts ranging from 1·4 to ·04 part per 100,000. Water containing the former amount of Zinc cannot be recommended for dietetic

(e) Wigtown County Council.

Fifteen samples of Water in all were received. 5 of these were taken to provide information regarding proposed new area supplies. Of the others, 2 were of satisfactory dietetic quality, 4 were definitely unfit, and 3 were regarded as usable. 2 samples (1 unfit, 1 usable) came from a supply subject to mechanical filtration and under the control of the military authority. The results of the analyses revealed that supervision of the plant was inadequate and that it was being operated inefficiently. The remaining sample, taken under special conditions, contained a considerable amount of sludge. The sludge consisted of compounds of Iron and Zinc, and fully justified the complaints made regarding that supply.

MILK.

One hundred and thirty-eight samples of Heat-treated and Pasteurised Milk were submitted for the Phosphatase Test. 116 samples gave negative results, showing that heat-treatment had been adequate.

In five cases the test indicated that Heat-treatment had been "insufficient." The remaining 17 samples had been "grossly undertreated." 14 of the latter and 3 of the former came from 3 sources from which 52 samples had been taken. Of the remaining 86 samples from 6 sources, only 5 were unsatisfactory, indicating that on the whole these plants were being operated properly.

FOOD AND DRUGS.

Ninety-two samples received from Sanitary Inspectors are considered later, together with those from Dumfries and Kirkcudbright.

FERTILISERS AND FEEDING STUFFS.

No samples of Fertilisers or Feeding Stuffs were received.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Two samples of Lime and 2 of Chalk from water treatment plant at Stranraer were of good commercial quality.

High Test Hypochlorite for use with water purification plants was of excellent quality containing 60.1% of Available Chlorine.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

Three hundred and sixty samples in all were submitted by the Joint Committee of Dumfriesshire and the County Councils of Kirkcudbrightshire and Wigtownshire. Particulars of these are shown in Appendix II.

Details of the 16 (4%) certified as not genuine are given in Table 6.

Table 6.

DUMFRIES.			Adulterated Samples.			
Sample No.		Fat.	N.F.S.	Ash.	F.P.Dop.	Remarks.
*1187	Milk	·75%	9·08%	·76%	—	75% Def. Fat.
1200	Milk	3·12%	7·54%	·64%	·476° C.	11% added water.
1275	Milk	3·85%	8·34%	·69%	·507° C.	1% added water.
KIRKCUDBRIGHT.						
*1667	Milk	3·50%	8·32%	·67%	·518° C.	2% added water.
WIGTOWN.						
*1001	Milk	3·00%	6·94%	·59%	·420° C.	18% added water.
*1021	Milk	3·10%	8·14%	·68%	·503° C.	4% added water.
*1026	Milk	3·27%	8·12%	·68%	·513° C.	3% added water.
1	Milk	3·76%	7·85%	·70%	·484° C.	7% added water.
19	Milk	3·22%	8·08%	·70%	·516° C.	4% added water.
211	Mince	...	...	Sulphite Preservative equivalent to Sulphur Dioxide...63 parts per million.		
DUMFRIES.						
*1193	Lard	...	...	Consists largely of Fat of Vegetable Origin.		
*1222	Lard	...	...	Consists largely of Fat of Vegetable Origin.		
KIRKCUDBRIGHT.						
*5	Lard	...	...	Consists largely of Fat of Vegetable Origin.		
*210	Seidlitz Powder	...	Contains excess of Rochelle Salt—2·3 grams.			
WIGTOWN.						
6	Lard	...	...	Consists largely of Fat of Vegetable Origin.		
10	Lard	...	...	Consists largely of Fat of Vegetable Origin.		
* Informal Samples.						

Successful proceedings were instituted in respect of Milk sample Dumfries No. 1200, but on account of extenuating circumstances the penalty was limited to an admonition. Proceedings were also instituted in respect of Wigtown No. 1.

The deficiencies in the remaining formal Milk samples did not warrant further action, and proceedings cannot be based on informal samples.

A warning was issued to the vendor of Mince No. 216, and a later sample proved satisfactory.

The excess of Rochelle Salt in Seidlitz Powder (Kirkcudbright No. 210) can hardly be considered to the prejudice of the

purchaser, but it does indicate carelessness on the part of the manufacturer.

Five samples of Lard in a total of eleven consisted of Hardened (*i.e.* Hydrogenated) Vegetable Fat. This substitution is now relatively common, and under the conditions existing at present there is no financial fraud in the transaction. In this respect, however, the following quotation from the report of another analyst published recently in the "British Food Journal" states: "It is important that a custom of supplying Cooking Fat for Lard should not be allowed to become established." The Editor, commenting on this, points out the risk that, on a return to more or less normal conditions, "trade custom" might well be pleaded as a defence in an action. With this view I am in complete agreement.

SUNDRY.

Eighty-seven samples of Water were submitted by other authorities and privately. These samples came mainly from Wigtownshire and had usually been taken to support claims for grants for the improvement of farm supplies. Of seventy examined for sanitary fitness, 48 were satisfactory, although in some cases filtration was recommended, while 4 were regarded as usable. 25 were definitely unsuitable, two on account of the presence of compounds of Iron, while Lead was a contributory factor in another. A Hardness of 64 parts and Chlorides equivalent to 40 parts Salt per 100,000 found in one sample are both unusually high for this area.

Partial examination sufficed for the remainder, which had reference to the control of mechanical filtration plant and the presence of metallic impurities.

Chemical treatment is given to the feed water entering the boilers used for steam raising at Lochmaben Sanatorium to prevent scaling and corrosion. To ensure that the proportions of chemicals added are adequate but not excessive, periodical analyses are made of the boiler water itself. The boilerhouse staff also make regular tests of the feed water for alkalinity. Treatment has long become a matter of routine, and during the year 8 analyses sufficed.

Sewage Effluents from various P.O.W. Camps were examined for the Ministry of Works. Three of the nine samples satisfied

the Bio-chemical Demand requirement for a "standard" effluent, *i.e.* 2 parts per 100,000, while five approximated to the requirements for a "bad" effluent from filtration, *i.e.* 5 parts per 100,000, but may also be considered satisfactory.

The remaining sample had a Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand of 31 parts per 100,000, the equivalent of "strong septic tank liquor," but as no complaints of nuisance were received the volume of clean diluting water receiving it must have been adequate.

Wine described as "British Sherry Type" received from a Service Institution contained Fiscal Proof Spirit 19.87% by Vol. together with artificial flavouring and colouring. It consisted of badly made and fortified cider, and it had an abominable taste.

Liquid described as suitable for french polishing consisted of a solution of Caustic Soda and Resin in Methylated Spirits, a mixture quite unsuitable for the purpose.

Of two samples examined for suitability for agricultural purposes one consisted of Low Grade Chalk, and the other mainly of Sand and Gypsum, with 20% or thereby of Chalk. The latter was of much less value agriculturally.

Four specimens of Viscera were the subjects of toxicological examination. Two, the liver and stomach contents of a bullock, contained Lead compounds equivalent to Lead, 7 and 16 grains per pound respectively.

The others were free from poisonous substances.

The remaining samples consisted of Milk and Cream (7) examined for Fat Content, and 17 Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs. They do not call for comment.

These sundry samples are summarised in Table 7.

Table 7.

Water	...	...	...	...	...	87
Water—Boiler	...	...	...	...	...	8
Sewage Effluent	...	...	...	...	...	9
Wine	...	...	...	...	...	1
Liquid	...	...	...	...	...	1
Material	...	...	...	...	...	2
Viscera	...	...	...	...	...	4
Milk and Cream	...	...	...	...	...	7
Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs	...	...	...	...	...	17
						<hr/> 136 <hr/>

Appendix I.

	Water.	Sewage and Sewage Effluent.	Food and Drugs.	Milk.	Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs.	Road Tar.	Miscellaneous.	Total.
Dumfries County Council	198	...	155	1641	17	12	2	2025
Kirkeudbright County Council	133	...	113	312	...	...	1	559
Wigtown County Council	15	...	92	138	...	...	6	251
Dumfries Burgh	...	...	...	107	...	...	1	108
Private and Other Local Authorities	95	9	...	7	17	...	8	136
		.						<u>3079</u>

Appendix II.

Table showing the Number and Nature of Samples received under the Food and Drugs Act.

Article	County Councils of			Total	Adulterated
	Dfs.	Kbt.	Wig.		
Milk	67(3)	34(1)	40(5)	141	9
Milk (Condensed) ... ..	...	1	...	1	...
Butter	11	4	7	22	...
Margarine	11	1	3	15	...
Lard	4(2)	1(1)	6(2)	11	5
Cooking Fat	7	...	1	8	...
Cheese	1	...	1	2	...
Sugar	1	6	2	9	...
Jam ... ..	...	1	...	1	...
Tea ... ..	...	2	...	2	...
Coffee Essence	2	1	...	3	...
Cocoa ... ..	...	1	2	3	...
Pepper ... ..	...	2	2	4	...
Mustard ... ..	...	3	...	3	...
Vinegar	1	...	1	2	...
Cloves	1	...	...	1	...
Ginger ... ..	...	2	1	3	...
Cinnamon	1	1	1	3	...
Mixed Spice	2	1	1	4	...
Flour ... ..	...	1	...	1	...
Barley ... ..	...	2	1	3	...
Cream of Tartar	1	2	6	9	...
Baking Soda ... ..	...	3	...	3	...
Baking Powder	1	3	1	5	...
Salt	1	...	...	1	...
Mince ... ..	...	...	3(1)	3	1
Sausage	2	2	2	6	...
Peas ... ..	...	1	...	1	...
Meat Paste ... ..	...	1	...	1	...
Fish Paste ... ..	...	1	...	1	...
Fish and Shrimp Paste ... ..	...	1	...	1	...
Cake Mixture	1	6	2	9	...
Semolina ... ..	...	...	1	1	...
Flavouring Essence	7	5	4	16	...
Raisins	1	...	1	2	...
Spirits	5	...	...	5	...
Oranjeast ... ..	...	1	...	1	...
Gelatine ... ..	...	1	...	1	...
Soup ... ..	...	1	...	1	...
Rennet ... ..	...	...	1	1	...
Ice Cream ... ..	...	...	5	5	...
Ice Cream Powder ... ..	...	1	...	1	...
Acetic Acid	1	...	...	1	...
Aspirin	6	1	...	7	...
Boracic Acid	2	...	...	2	...
Epsom Salts ... ..	...	3	...	3	...
Gregory Powder	2	...	...	2	...
Milk of Magnesia ... ..	...	...	1	1	...
Oil (Camphorated) ... ..	...	1	...	1	...
Oil (Castor) ... ..	...	2	...	2	...
Carry forward	139(5)	100(2)	96(8)	335	15

Appendix II.—continued.

Article				County Councils of			Total	Adulterated
				Dfs.	Kbt.	Wig.		
Brought forward	...	...	...	139(5)	100(2)	96(8)	335	15
Oil (Cod Liver) ...	...	...	...	2	...	1	3	...
Oil (Eucalyptus) ...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...
Prepared Chalk ...	...	...	...	3	...	...	3	...
Soda Mint Tablets ...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...
Saccharin ...	...	...	...	2	...	...	2	...
Seidlitz Powder ...	...	...	...	1	1(1)	...	2	1
Tincture of Iodine ...	...	...	...	2	...	...	2	...
Tartaric Acid ...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...
Zinc Ointment ...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...
Blood Mixture ...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...
Gripe Mixture ...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...
Bronchial Emulsion ...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...
Chelsea Pensioners' Preparation	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...
Lung Balsam ...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...
Stomach Powder ...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...
Tonic Wine ...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...
Cherry Flavoured Wine ...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...
Yeast Vite ...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...
Total	...	...	...	155(5)	108(3)	97(8)	360	16

TABLE SHEWING SPECIMENS SUBMITTED AND SOURCE OF SUPPLY.

	Dfs. County	V.D. Clinic	Dfs. Burgh	Stwty. of Kbt.	Wgtn. County	D. & G. R.I.	Private	Forces	Cross- well	Total
Diphtheria—										
Throat, Nasal and Aural Swabs	1278	2	541	190	91	6	1	28	17	2154
Virulence Tests ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Tuberculosis—										
Sputa ...	122	...	74	40	56	...	...	25	2	319
Pus ...	6	...	2	3	2	...	...	...	...	13
Milk ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14	...	...	14
Cerebro-Spinal Fluid ...	5	...	4	1	2	...	...	...	...	12
Pleural and Other Fluids	6	...	2	1	1	...	...	...	1	11
Fæces ...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Urine ...	2	...	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	6
Enteric Fever—										
Fæces ...	4	...	25	4	1	...	...	...	2	36
Urine ...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Blood Cultures ...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Widal's Reaction...	10	1	4	6	3	...	...	...	4	28
Dysentery—										
Fæces ...	76	...	65	12	5	...	...	11	5	174
Urine ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Undulant Fever—										
Agglutination Reactions	10	1	3	4	3	...	...	...	...	21
Meningitis—										
Cerebro-Spinal Fluid ...	4	...	2	2	1	...	...	...	...	9
Veneral Diseases—										
Wassermann } Blood	70	729	264	50	108	9	...	56	820	2106
Reactions } C.S.F.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Kahn Reactions ...	70	729	264	50	108	9	...	56	820	2106
G.C.F.T. ...	3	34	3	...	3	...	...	...	...	43
Smears for Gonococci ...	11	422	15	7	27	1	...	4	65	552
Carry forward ...	1678	1918	1273	373	411	25	15	180	1736	7609

	Dfs. County	V.D. Clinic	Dfs. Burgh	Stwty. of Kbt.	Wgtn. County	D. & G. R.I.	Private	Forces	Cress- well	Total
Brought forward	1678	1918	1273	373	411	25	15	180	1736	7609
Milk Samples for—										
Count and B. Coli Tests...	1574	...	106	2620	2635	...	5	...	...	6940
Pathogenic Organisms ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Methylene Blue Test ...	13	...	57	125	136	...	1	...	...	332
Water Samples for—										
Count and B. Coli Tests...	195	...	...	129	38	...	90	...	...	452
Pathogenic Organisms ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
General Bacteriological Examinations										
Swabs for Haemolytic Streptococci	440	2	286	126	77	6	...	28	80	1045
Pus for Organisms ...	11	...	5	4	5	...	23	...	4	52
Sputa for Organisms ...	14	...	7	10	7	...	...	1	...	39
Urine for Organisms ...	2	1	2	1	...	...	74	1	25	106
Blood Cultures ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	4	8
Pathological Examinations—										
Blood for White Cell Count	...	2	1.	...	...	...	160	3	13	179
Blood for Haemoglobin and Red Cell Count ...	...	1	2	...	...	...	185	...	12	200
Blood Films (Differential Count)	...	1	1	...	...	...	50	3	8	63
Blood Sedimentation Rate	2	2	...	...	...	...	35	...	...	39
Blood Grouping ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Bleeding Time and Coagulation Rate ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Urine for nature of Cellular and Crystal Deposits ...	3	5	3	1	...	...	107	16	32	167
Faeces for Presence of Blood	3	...	...	...	...	...	17	...	2	22
Gastric Juice for Test Meals	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Miscellaneous ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Carry forward ...	3939	1932	1743	3389	3309	31	818	238	1978	17377

	Dfs. County	V.D. Clinic	Dfs. Burgh	Stwty. of Kbt.	Wgtn. County	D. & G. R.L.	Private	Forces	Cross- well	Total
Brought forward	3936	1932	1743	3389	3309	31	769	232	1916	17257
Bio-Chemical Examinations—										
Blood Sugars	1	...	...	...	...	...	5	6	...	12
Sugar Tolerance Curves	1	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	6
Blood Urea	1	...	...	...	...	...	39	...	62	102
Van den Bergh's Test	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	2
Icteric Index	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Urine—Routine Examination	3	5	3	1	...	...	107	16	32	167
Urine—Urea Estimation	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	...	4	13
Cerebro-Spinal Fluid—Sugar	6	...	5	3	2	...	1	...	...	17
Cerebro-Spinal Fluid—Protein	6	...	5	3	2	...	1	...	...	17
Cerebro-Spinal Fluid—Chlorides	6	...	5	3	2	...	1	...	...	17
Cerebro-Spinal Fluid—Colloidal										
Gold Curve	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Miscellaneous—										
Examinations for Anthrax	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Examinations for Mycotic										
Infection	1	1	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	5
Examinations for Malaria	1	1	4	5	...	...	...	5	...	16
Examinations for Weil's Disease	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Examinations of Foodstuffs for										
Pathogenic Organisms	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	3	...	5
Examinations of Rinsings from										
Milk Churns	...	...	...	16	170	...	...	...	...	186
Examinations of Rinsings from										
Milk Bottles	...	...	6	...	21	...	...	...	...	27
Autogenous Vaccines	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Paul Bunnell Tests	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	2
Animal Inoculations	6	...	2	1	...	...	14	...	1	24
	3970	1939	1774	3421	3507	31	957	262	2017	17878

SMALL BURGHS.

In the case of Sanquhar, Lochmaben and Langholm, where there is no Resident Sanitary Inspector, the duties are carried out by members of the County Sanitary Staff. The reports on the sanitary conditions in these Burghs have been compiled by Mr Wilson, Depute Chief Sanitary Inspector.

BURGH OF ANNAN.

Vital Statistics.

The number of births corrected for transfers was 88 (45 males, 43 females), of which 6 were illegitimate.

During the year 66 marriages were registered.

Deaths corrected for transfers numbered 66 (30 males and 36 females). The chief causes of death were Cancer, 9 ; Heart Disease, 21 ; Cerebral Hæmorrhage, 9 ; Pneumonia, 6. There were 5 deaths of children under 1 year.

Infectious Disease.

During the year 28 notifications of infectious disease were received. Thirteen patients suffered from Scarlet Fever, 3 from Diphtheria, and 9 from Tuberculosis.

Sanitary Condition of the Burgh.

The following report has been prepared by Mr James I. Rodger, Sanitary Inspector for the Burgh of Annan :—

Water Supply.—Pure water, being one of the essential factors in relation to the general health of a community, should be made available in abundant supply, thus ensuring the maintenance of good health and clean conditions throughout the areas supplied. In this respect the Burgh of Annan is well supplied, having an impounding reservoir of 32,000,000 gallons capacity drawing hillside water from a catchment area of 1140 acres. The water is conducted from the impounding reservoir by two mains 7" and 6" in diameter respectively, the former via Ecclefechan and the latter via Kirtlebridge to the local authority's filtration site situated at Landheads. At this site there are

placed two sand filterbeds, each with a filtering area of approximately 2400 square feet, through which the water passes and thereafter is led through a chlorination plant, where it is dosed with chlorine gas before entering a clear water tank. From this point the water is conveyed by two 7" diameter mains to the Burgh, passing through two 5" Glenfield & Kennedy positive recording meters en route, thence it is distributed throughout the town by a series of distribution mains varying in size from 3" to 6".

The water is periodically analysed by the County Council Analyst, and reports received have always been found favourable.

The filter beds and clear water tank are cleaned at intervals, and all pipes are scoured when required.

The Burgh area is inspected from time to time to eliminate wastage through defective or burst water service fittings, and where these are detected the proprietor is accordingly notified by Statutory Notice.

Owing to the proposed extension of the Burgh boundaries, added to the fact that the number of dwelling-houses is increasing within the Burgh, it is contemplated that the storage capacity and the filter beds will require to be increased, and the local authority are presently preparing plans to cope with this expansion.

Drainage System.—During the year, at the northern end of the Burgh, a reinforced concrete culvert was constructed to deal with flood water coming off high ground lying just outside the Burgh boundary. On several occasions, after exceedingly heavy rain, it was found that this surface water was inclined to overload the sewers and lead to flooding in one or two places inside the Burgh. Since this culvert has been constructed there has been no sign of flooding and the main sewers have been relieved to a great extent through the exclusion of this surface water.

The Council, owing to their building programme and the extension of the Burgh boundaries, contemplate that a new sewer will require to be laid, and with this in view a scheme is being presently prepared for consideration.

Sewage Purification and Disposal.—The disposal of the sewage in the Burgh is by gravitation, and the crude sewage is conveyed by an 18" sewer along Port Street and thence into the River Annan at a point below high water level, thence it is carried to the Solway Firth by the action of the tides aided by the flow of the river.

Housing.—Under the various Housing Acts the local authority have had erected 242 dwelling-houses. The number is made up as follows :—

8 2-apartment houses.	54 4-apartment houses.
170 3-apartment houses.	8 5-apartment houses.

As the local authority have still a considerable number of applications from persons desiring a home of their own, they are at present proceeding with the erection of 20 4-apartment Swedish houses, 45 3-apartment temporary houses of the Uni-Seco type, and 20 4-apartment Cruden houses. They are also preparing plans for the Department of Health of sites to accommodate approximately a further 220 houses of 4 and 5 apartments.

The local authority also acquired a site at Silverlaw from the Ministry of Supply and anticipated converting the dormitories thereon into dwelling-houses, but owing to their construction and the considerable alterations required the costs were found to be too excessive to be economical.

At the end of the year most of the temporary houses were nearing completion and it was anticipated that the first of the Swedish houses would be ready for occupation early in January.

Offensive Trades.—Within the Burgh there exists one offensive trade, namely, a Skin Works. It is found to be kept in a cleanly condition, and there has been no cause for complaint.

Slaughter-house.—The Slaughter-house is the property of the local authority and is presently occupied by the Ministry of Food, under whose jurisdiction the slaughtering and distribution of meat is carried out,. The premises are looked after by the local authority and are painted and white-washed periodically and repairs carried out when required.

The local authority are presently considering several alterations to the lighting, roof, etc., and it is anticipated, providing materials are available, that the work will be carried out during the next year.

The number of animals slaughtered during the year ending 31st December, 1946, was :—

Cattle	...	...	...	1072	Pigs	...	...	...	32
Sheep	...	...	...	6603	Calves	...	...	...	2667

Scavenging.—The refuse from the town is collected in two districts, each district having a collection twice weekly. All refuse in the Burgh is collected by horse and cleansing cart, two in number, but it is anticipated that a two-ton cleansing motor vehicle, now on order, will be delivered during the summer months.

For the year ending 31st December, 1946, the following amounts of refuse and salvage materials were collected :—

Household refuse	...	...	...	1530 loads.
Surplus materials	...	...	...	17 loads.
Waste paper	...	...	...	256 loads.

The majority of the refuse collected is conveyed to an incinerator, where it is burned, and any surplus material is tipped on the coup situated on the Burgh Merse. During the year the coup was treated periodically for rat infestation, and the local authority engaged rat-catchers through the Ministry of Agriculture for this purpose on one occasion. These agents also covered the Burgh during their visit and carried out work in several privately owned premises in the town.

The main street and classified roads are cleansed daily and subsidiary roads receive attention periodically, for which purpose two employees are engaged full-time and one part-time.

Schools.—Within the Burgh there are in existence three schools, and all are well looked after and kept in a cleanly condition. During the course of the year a School Cantcen was opened for the purpose of serving meals to the children living in outlying districts and for children who preferred not to go home during inclement weather.

Burial Grounds.—Three burial grounds are situated within the Burgh boundaries, but no interments have been carried out during the year, all burials being executed in a cemetery placed outwith the Burgh and under the jurisdiction of the County Council of Dumfries.

Factories and Workshops.—There are several factories and workshops placed within the Burgh, and apart from minor alterations no exception has been taken against the manner in which they are looked after. During the course of the year a Glove Factory was opened, and inspection revealed that the premises are well looked after and provided with all essential requirements.

BURGH OF SANQUHAR.

Vital Statistics.

The number of births corrected for transfers was 45 (24 males, 21 females), of which 4 were illegitimate.

During the year 21 marriages were registered.

Deaths corrected for transfers numbered 34 (19 males and 15 females). The chief causes of death were Cancer, 6; Heart Disease, 14; Cerebral Hæmorrhage, 2; Pneumonia, 4. There were 4 deaths of children under 1 year.

Infectious Disease.

During the year 16 notifications of infectious disease were received. Nine patients suffered from Pneumonia, three from Tuberculosis, and one each from Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever, Erysipelas and Malaria.

Sanitary Condition of the Burgh.

Housing.—No new houses were completed and occupied for the first time in 1946.

Plans.—During the year eleven plans were submitted for examination. Reports on the plans were prepared and submitted to the local authority for their consideration. The work shown on the plans included (a) alterations to three dwelling-

houses, two factories, and two retail shops, and (b) a new transformer station, garage, and school dining centre.

In addition to the above, a number of plans were examined in connection with proposed new houses.

The number of visits paid in connection with plans was 47.

Drainage.—Nineteen inspections of drainage and plumbing work were made in connection with new buildings and alterations to existing buildings. The necessary tests were applied in each case.

Water Supply.—Samples of the water were taken periodically for analysis.

Unsound Food.—At the request of shopkeepers, or in course of routine visits to their premises, 36 lbs. 4 ozs. of tinned foods, 3 lbs. 15 ozs. of butter, and 4 lbs. 8 ozs. of ham—a total of 44 lbs. 11 ozs.—was seized as unfit for human consumption.

Factories Act, 1937.—The number of factories on the register at the end of the year was 12 mechanical and 4 non-mechanical, a total of 16. Fifteen visits were made to factories during the year.

General.—Fifty-two inspections were made *re* complaints of defects and nuisances, and reports on unsatisfactory conditions found were furnished. The complaints consisted of defective drainage and sanitary fittings, accumulation of refuse, dampness in dwelling-houses, structural defects, etc.

Three visits were paid to the lodging-house and 30 visits in connection with the erection of new business premises and alterations to dwelling-houses and existing business premises.

BURGH OF LOCKERBIE.

Vital Statistics.

The number of births corrected for transfers was 47 (29 males, 18 females), of which 4 were illegitimate.

During the year 32 marriages were registered.

Deaths corrected for transfers numbered 49 (20 males, 29 females). The chief causes of death were Cancer, 6 ; Heart Disease, 13 ; Cerebral Hæmorrhage, 9 ; Pneumonia, 2. There were 4 deaths of children under 1 year.

Infectious Disease.

During the year 7 notifications of infectious disease were received. Four patients suffered from Tuberculosis, two from Pneumonia, and one from Malaria.

Sanitary Condition of the Burgh.

The following report has been prepared by Mr David R. Walker, Sanitary Inspector for the Burgh of Lockerbie :—

Water Supply.—The water supply is from a storage reservoir of 15¼ million gallons capacity and controlling a catchment area of 650 acres. Slow sand filters are provided with a total area in two units of 2400 square feet. The trunk main between the reservoir and the filter beds was regularly inspected and scoured. Two bursts occurred on the trunk main, which were satisfactorily repaired.

Owing to the steadily increasing demand made on the supply to the town, the Town Council have had under consideration the carrying out of certain improvements to their works with which the Department of Health are fully conversant.

Inspections are carried out throughout the town for the detection of defective fittings, leakages and bursts, which receive prompt attention.

Drainage and Sewage Purification.—The drainage and sewerage system is in good working order and has satisfactorily fulfilled its function without giving rise to any nuisances or complaints. The usual routine work of dragging and maintenance has been carried out. All connections to mains and all other new drainage works were inspected and tested before being put into use.

A new public convenience for ladies was constructed at a site in the centre of the town, and is proving a great benefit.

Disposal Works.—The disposal works for the sewage from the town is situated about one mile outside the Burgh boundary.

The sewage on entering the works is first dealt with by the detritus tanks, which are four in number; here the grit, sand and mud from the roads is settled out. From the detritus tanks the sewage passes on to the sedimentation tanks, which are two in number, in which it remains at rest, or nearly so, for several hours. In these tanks the greater part of the suspended solids which have passed through the detritus chambers become separated from the liquid. The solid matter which is attacked by bacteria breaks up and settles to the bottom in the form of sludge. This sludge is pumped out periodically by a power-driven diaphragm pump into lagoons, where it is allowed to digest and becomes a useful fertiliser. The supernatant liquid from the tanks passes on to its final treatment by the contact beds or bacterial filters, where the impurities of the sewage are brought into intimate contact with oxygen percolating down through the interstices of the filtering media. There are eight contact beds with rotary type sprinkler arms. The effluent from the contact beds passes on into a nearby burn, the water of which acts as a satisfactory diluting agency.

Cleansing.—The disposal of household refuse is by controlled tipping, and the site of the coup is about two miles from the town. The refuse is collected by a modern petrol-driven motor vehicle.

During the year several cases of defective ash buckets were dealt with, many of which had got into a state of dilapidation during the war years. A stock of suitable ash bins was procured by the local authority and sold to householders when occasion arose.

Nuisances.—Several complaints regarding nuisances were received and investigated, most of which were of a minor nature, and remedied on verbal notice being given to the party responsible.

Slaughter-house.—The Slaughter-house, which is under the control of the Town Council, continues to be maintained in a

satisfactory manner. The garbage is removed regularly by motor vehicle and sold to a farmer for manure. A full-time superintendent is employed, who acts as detention officer. The inspection of meat is carried out by the County Veterinary Officer, who makes regular visits to the Slaughter-house.

Offensive Trades.—There are no offensive trades carried on within the Burgh.

Factories and Workshops.—There are no factories situated in the town, and the workshops are fairly well equipped with sanitary fittings, and have sufficient light and ventilation.

Common Lodging-house.—The common lodging-house has been closed, and there seems no necessity for one in this area.

Burial Grounds.—There is one burial ground situated within the Burgh, which is under the control of the local authority. Only a very few old residents have rights of burial, as it is now closed.

Schools.—Lockerbie Academy is the only school situated within the Burgh. It is of modern construction and well fitted with up-to-date sanitary fittings. A new dining hall has now been opened, which is proving of great benefit to the pupils of the academy.

Housing.—Although the construction of new Council houses has been somewhat seriously curtailed, yet the Town Council have done remarkably well in having 10 houses built and occupied. A further 18 are well advanced, being roofed in, and should be occupied at an early date.

Site preparation is being pushed on, and it is to be hoped that the building situation will have considerably improved by the time the sites are ready for building on.

BURGH OF MOFFAT.

Vital Statistics.

The number of births corrected for transfers was 35 (19 males, 16 females), of which 3 were illegitimate.

During the year 16 marriages were registered.

Deaths corrected for transfers numbered 46 (19 males, 27 females). The chief causes of death were Cancer, 5 ; Heart Disease, 17 ; Cerebral Hæmorrhage, 4 ; Pneumonia, 3. One child under 1 year died.

Infectious Disease.

During the year 11 notifications of infectious disease were received. Three patients suffered from Scarlet Fever, three from Pneumonia, three from Tuberculosis, one from Malaria, and one from Cerebro-spinal Meningitis.

Sanitary Condition of the Burgh.

The following report has been prepared by Mr John Sanson, Sanitary Inspector for the Burgh of Moffat :—

Staff.—The Burgh Staff consists of one Burgh Surveyor, one Sanitary Inspector, and nine regular employees.

Water.—The Burgh is fortunate in having an excellent supply of water, which is of good quality and ample quantity. The supply is drawn from hill pasture lands where the risk of contamination is slight. Near the head of the Annan Water Valley on the Granton Estate several wells have been formed. Those wells have been sunk well below the impervious stratum on which the subsoil water rests, and their supply is obtained from water which has percolated through the porous strata from distant points. From the wells the water is led into an underground tank. This tank is of small dimensions and provides storage which would only serve the needs of the Burgh for a few hours. It has not been found necessary to provide any form of filtration and the water is taken direct from the tank into the town mains. No complaints as to shortage of water have been received. Meters are fitted to the trunk mains, but no records have been kept for some time, the last available readings show a daily average consumption of 110 gallons per head of population. It has been found from observations made at the tank that there is no variation in the water level throughout the year, the flow of water from the wells being more than sufficient for the needs of the town. The Burgh supply comes from shallow rather than deep springs, and samples should be examined from time to time.

Housing.—The Town Council have made a great effort during the past two years to provide additional housing accommodation in the Burgh. A first-class site has been secured, plans approved and offers received for the erection of 24 houses as the first part of the scheme which was to consist of 80 houses in a five years' programme. Owing to circumstances over which the Council have no control, no progress has been made.

Arrangements have been completed for the erection of 15 temporary houses on three sites, all of which are centrally situated, and a start was made with the first five a few days ago.

In 1939 the County Medical Officer made representations to the Town Council regarding nine houses which he considered unfit for human habitation, and which are not capable at a reasonable expense of being rendered so fit. A closing order was made on one of the houses, a demolition on three, and in the case of the remaining five it was agreed to delay consideration in order that the owners might submit their proposals for bringing the houses up to modern standards. All nine houses are still occupied, as little can be done until alternative accommodation can be made available.

There are no serious cases of overcrowding in the Burgh, but many young people are residing with relations or in furnished rooms under unsatisfactory conditions.

Drainage.—Complaints were received during the year from a local nurseryman regarding leakage of sewage matter from the effluent pipe which passes through his land. The leakage only takes place during flood periods. The flooding may be caused by water coming back through the effluent pipe from the river, or it may be that the effluent pipe is not large enough to contain the storm water coming through or past the works. The Council have asked Messrs Gilbert Thomson & Son, C.E., Glasgow, to give a report on the matter, as they realise that this flooding is detrimental to the efficiency of the works. At the new housing site a separate pipe is being put in to carry off the roof water and storm water from the street gullies.

Cleansing.—A daily house-to-house collection is made throughout the town by two horse-drawn vehicles, one of which

is covered. The system has been found to give good results. A weekly collection of waste paper is made, the clean paper is baled and dispatched by rail. No effort is spared by this department to keep the Burgh in a clean and tidy condition and to maintain its reputation as a pleasant health resort.

Nuisances.—There were 17 complaints received during the year. The number of nuisances dealt with was 26, but in no case was it found necessary to send out statutory notices in terms of Section 20 of the Public Health (Scotland) Act, 1897. The nuisances dealt with were mostly damp walls, leaking roofs or defective rhones, choked drains or water-closets.

Slaughter-house.—No slaughtering is being done at Moffat and the slaughter-house is let as a store.

Schools.—The schools in the Burgh were visited periodically throughout the year and were found to be in excellent condition. Arrangements are being made for the erection of a dining hall at Moffat Academy.

Factories and Workshops.—In the supervision of the factories and workshops in the Burgh 92 visits of inspection were made ; the premises were generally found to be well kept.

Bakehouses.—There are four bakehouses in the Burgh. In each of the premises a high standard of cleanliness is maintained.

Common Lodging-house.—There is no common lodging-house in the Burgh. There is a resthouse where vagrants are given shelter for one night. It is under the control of the County Council and is well conducted and kept scrupulously clean. It is provided with bathrooms and a sickroom.

Dairies.—There are two milk shops in the Burgh. The premises are visited regularly and have always been found to be in a satisfactory condition.

Burial Grounds.—The burial ground in the Burgh is under the control of the Town Council. It is now closed for burial purposes and is kept in good order.

BURGH OF LANGHOLM.

Vital Statistics.

The number of births corrected for transfers was 48 (25 males, 23 females), of which 3 were illegitimate.

During the year 23 marriages were registered.

Deaths corrected for transfers numbered 38 (19 males, 19 females). The chief causes of death were Cancer, 7; Heart Disease, 13; Cerebral Hæmorrhage, 5. There were 3 deaths of children under one year.

Infectious Disease.

During the year 5 notifications of infectious disease were received. Two patients suffered from Tuberculosis, two from Erysipelas, and one from Puerperal Pyrexia.

Sanitary Condition of the Burgh.

In the absence of a Sanitary Inspector for the Burgh the sanitary work has been carried out by members of the County Sanitary Staff. As the change did not take place until the latter part of the year, only a brief report can be furnished.

Housing.—Ten visits were made in connection with proposed new houses. Drainage plans were prepared for the temporary houses and submitted to the Ministry of Works representative. Four examinations of drainage and plumbing work were carried out and the necessary tests applied in each case.

Water Supplies.—Samples of the water were taken periodically and submitted for analysis.

Unsound Food.—At the request of two shopkeepers quantities of foodstuffs were examined and the following condemned as unfit for human consumption :— 1 12 oz. tin of pork and 3½ lbs. of butter.

Factories Act, 1937.—There are in the Burgh 23 mechanical factories and 10 non-mechanical, a total of 33. A register of these factories will be made and, when staff is available, routine inspections carried out.

BURGH OF LOCHMABEN.

Vital Statistics.

The number of births corrected for transfers was 32 (19 males, 13 females), of which 2 were illegitimate.

During the year 15 marriages were registered.

Deaths corrected for transfers numbered 21 (7 males, 14 females). The chief causes of death were Cancer, 5 ; Heart Disease, 4 ; Cerebral Hæmorrhage, 4 ; Pneumonia, 1. There were 2 deaths of children under 1 year.

Infectious Disease.

During the year 8 notifications of infectious disease were received. Three patients suffered from Scarlet Fever, two from Pneumonia, two from Tuberculosis, and one from Erysipelas.

Sanitary Condition of the Burgh.

Housing.—No new houses were completed and occupied for the first time during 1946. Twelve plans were submitted during the year, and reports on same were prepared and submitted to the local authority. The plans submitted were in connection with (1) the local authority's housing scheme, (2) the conversion of part of Market Hall into public conveniences, (3) a school dining centre, (4) the conversion of a row of vacant houses into a factory, (5) an Army Cadet hut, (6) four new private garages, and (7) in respect of additions and alterations to a dwelling-house and to business premises.

Drainage.—Twenty-nine inspections of drainage and plumber-work were carried out during the year. The necessary tests were applied in each case.

Water Supply.—Nothing requiring special comment arose during the year.

Unsound Food.—At the request of two shopkeepers quantities of food stuffs were examined, and the following, on

examination, were found to be unfit for human consumption and seized in accordance with statutory requirements :—

Tinned Meat	...	...	...	2 lbs. 4 ozs.
Tinned Fish	...	...	...	7 lbs. 5 ozs.
Tinned Milk	...	...	...	13½ ozs.
Tinned Meat and Vegetables			...	1 lb.
Dried Fruit	...	...	...	126 lbs.
Total				137 lbs. 6½ ozs.

Factories Act, 1937.—There are four mechanical and eight non-mechanical factories in the Burgh. During the year there was no occasion to issue any notice regarding these premises.

General.—Forty-one visits were paid in connection with sanitary work in the Burgh.

SANITARY DEPARTMENT.

Report by GEORGE WILSON, Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector.

HOUSING.

1. The provision of dwelling-houses for the working classes is a problem of paramount importance, and that distinct progress is being made in this direction can be judged by the fact that during the year under review 236 houses were erected and occupied.

Particulars of these houses are shown in the following table :—

LOCAL AUTHORITY HOUSES OCCUPIED FOR THE FIRST TIME BETWEEN JANUARY, 1946, AND DECEMBER, 1946.

				Situation.	No.
Temporary Houses	...	...	Kirkconnel	...	100
			Gretna	...	100
			Collin	...	10
			Glencaple	...	10
Permanent Houses	...	...	Keir	...	2
(Agricultural Population).			Thornhill	...	4
			Locharbriggs	...	4
			Penpont	...	2
Swedish Houses	...	...	Penpont	...	4
				Total	236

Although a number of houses were in course of erection by private enterprise, none were completed and occupied in 1946.

PLANS.

During the year 312 plans were submitted for examination. Reports on these were prepared and submitted to the council for their consideration.

The following table gives particulars as to the nature of the work shown on the plans ;

	No. of Plans.
New business premises (excluding retail shops)	4
Alterations to existing business premises (excluding retail shops)	6
New factories	3
Alterations to existing factories	12
Alterations to farm buildings (excluding dairy farms) ...	6
New private garages	2
New permanent houses (privately owned)... ..	35
New temporary houses (privately owned)	10
New permanent houses (local authority schemes) ...	6
Conversion of storage, etc., accommodation into dwellings (privately owned)	5
Conversion of storage, etc., accommodation into bothy (privately owned)	1
Alterations to existing bothies	2
Alterations and improvements to existing dwellings ...	203
Alterations and improvements to church and public halls	3
New kitchens and dining centres for schools	3
New retail shops	7
Improvements to existing retail shops	1
Improvements or new private water supplies	3
 Total	 312

2. One hundred and eighty-three houses were surveyed under the Housing Acts. Detailed reports on them were prepared and submitted to the County Medical Officer

During the year 73 Demolition Orders were made. In addition to the houses surveyed, 713 visits were made in connection with plans submitted under the Building Bye-laws and in connection with new houses.

DRAINAGE.

During the year 1714 tests were made of drains and plumbing work in connection with dwelling-houses, factories and other premises. This work has taken up a considerable amount of the Inspectors' time, as the routine method of testing in this County consists of applying a smoke test, checking the

levels, and making an examination of the pipe joints and sanitary fittings. This branch of the work has been particularly difficult, as contractors have been unable in many cases to obtain the required fittings.

To assist the contractors, this department has prepared drawings and has instructed tradesmen in methods which could be adopted so that as little delay as possible should take place at the various housing schemes and where alterations were being carried out by private enterprise. This arrangement has meant additional work for the inspectorate, but it has been appreciated by the building contractors.

It has also been found necessary owing to the shortage of materials to modify the Bye-laws, but care has been taken to see that any modification allowed would not affect the satisfactory working of the drainage and plumbing systems or have a deleterious effect on health.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Eighty-five visits were made in connection with applications for a supply of water from the Council's main pipe.

In cases where the houses were without modern sanitary conveniences, particulars were furnished as to their structural condition so as to enable the local authority to determine if the owners should be called upon to introduce the supply inside with a sink and drainage therefrom or allow an outside standpipe with spill water drain.

One hundred and ninety-eight samples of water were procured and submitted for analysis.

Twenty-nine private water supplies were examined and reported on, and seven complaints regarding unsatisfactory and inadequate water supplies were investigated and the necessary action taken.

UN SOUND FOOD.

During the year 76,468 animals were slaughtered, of which 27,31 were cattle, 55,302 sheep, and 18,435 pigs.

The following table (I.) shows the various classes of animals slaughtered and the number of carcasses wholly or partially condemned on account of disease or injury :

TABLE I.

	Animals Slaughtered.	Condemned.		Weight of Meat Condemned in Lbs.
		Totally.	Partially.	
Cattle ...	1,002	20	51	12,675
Calves ...	1,729	16	5	1,141
Sheep ...	55,302	52	168	5,073
Pigs ...	18,435	19	1062	12,775
Total ...	76,468			31,664

In addition to the above, imported meat was examined at Thornhill Abattoir and Thornhill Bacon Factory, as follows :— 1741 sheep carcasses, 10,447 pig carcasses, 270 legs of beef, and 120 cases of frozen liver. Particulars of these are shown in Table II.

TABLE II.

	Carcase Meat, etc.	Condemned.		Weight of Meat Condemned in Lbs.
		Totally.	Partially.	
Cattle (parts of) ...	270	Nil.	8	144
Sheep ...	1,741	Nil.	6	46
Pigs ...	10,447	Nil.	36	360
Cases Frozen Liver ...	120	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Total ...	12,578			550

In the course of routine inspection or on request the following foods were examined and seized with the consent of the owners :—

Tinned Meats	...	...	761 lbs. 4 ozs.
Tinned Fruit ...	...	...	4 lbs. 8 ozs.
Tinned Vegetables	...	...	104 lbs. 8 ozs.
Tinned Fish ...	...	...	12 lbs. 0 ozs.
Tinned Milk ...	...	...	43 lbs. 12 ozs.
Tinned Jams ...	...	...	13 lbs. 0 ozs.
Dried Fruit ...	...	...	58 lbs. 8 ozs.
Fresh Fish	28 lbs. 8 ozs.
Bacon and Ham	72 lbs. 0 ozs.
Other Foods	76 lbs. 0 ozs.
<hr/>			
Total	1174 lbs. 0 ozs.
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The total weight of foodstuffs condemned as unfit for food in 1946 was 14 tons, 18 cwts., and 12 lbs.

As regards meat and food inspection in the County, I may state that all animals slaughtered in the abattoir at Thornhill and at the bacon factory in the same village are examined by one of the Sanitary Inspectors in his capacity as Detention Officer. The other foodstuffs are examined by the Sanitary Inspectors in their districts.

The total number of visits made in connection with the inspection of meat and other foods was 315.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Slaughter-houses.—At December, 1946, there were six slaughter-houses in the County, excluding the Burghs. Two of these have not been in use since 1939. All the slaughter-houses, with the exception of the one at Thornhill belonging to the local authority, are privately owned.

Other Offensive Trades.—At the close of the year there were four firms in the County who carry on one or more of the businesses set forth in the Public Health (Scotland) Act, 1897, as coming within the definition of offensive trades.

The following is a list of the offensive businesses carried on :—

Bone Boilers	...	...	1	Blood Boilers	...	...	1
Tallow Melters	...	...	3	Manure Manufacturer	...	...	1
Skinners or Hide Factors	...	...	1				—
Knacker	...	...	1	Total	...	...	9
Tripe Cleaners	...	...	1				—

No complaints were received during the year regarding offensive smells from any of the aforementioned premises. They are periodically inspected and any defects found reported on.

A number of the premises are of out-of-date construction and could only be remedied by the erection of new premises. It must, however, be said that in no case has it been found necessary to take statutory action.

A complaint was received during the year that slaughtering was being carried out in unlicensed premises. The complaint was investigated, reported to the local authority, and the necessary statutory action taken.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

The Factories Act of 1937, which superseded the Act of 1901, placed increased responsibilities upon local administration—for example, the sanitation of all mechanical factories, as well as additional duties in non-mechanical factories, now devolves on the Health Department.

The number of factories on the register at the end of the year was 116 mechanical, 42 non-mechanical, and 10 of works of building construction—a total of 168.

Owing to insufficient staff it was found impossible to visit all the factories, the total number of visits being 42.

Defects reported included three cases where the sanitary conveniences were unsatisfactory or defective. During the year plans were submitted for three new factories and improvements to twelve existing factories.

No lists of outworkers were received during 1946.

VERMINOUS PERSONS AND HOUSES.

One verminous person was treated during the year, and 12 houses infested with beetles, fleas, etc., were dealt with. The method of destruction employed included spraying with insecticides and dusting with insect powder.

FILTHY HOUSES.

Seven complaints were received about houses being in a dirty and unwholesome condition. Warnings or notices were sufficient to remedy any unsatisfactory conditions existing except in one case, where legal proceedings had to be taken.

COMPLAINTS.

Two hundred and eight inspections were made in connection with complaints of defects and insanitary conditions within the meaning of the Public Health (Scotland) Act, 1897.

The undernoted tabulated statement shows the nature of the various complaints :—

(a) Choked or defective drains and sanitary conveniences...	54
(b) Dampness	12
(c) Overcrowding	8
(d) Nuisances caused by the keeping of domestic animals...	3
(e) Offensive smells	7
(f) Accumulations of refuse	12
(g) Structural defects	59
(h) Other... ..	53
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Total	208
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Where the complaints were justified and action could be taken by this department, intimation was sent to the person or persons responsible. No statutory action was necessary during the year.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Fifteen visits were made in connection with notifications received regarding persons having been on ships where smallpox was suspected.

In all branches of the department's work the year under review has been a very busy one, but particular reference must be made to the amount of work done in connection with housing.

MILK.

Report by Mr D. M'Donald, Dairy Inspector.

Milk and Dairies (Scotland) Act, 1914.

Milk produced in the County during 1946 amounted to 12,874,548 gallons, which is approximately one million gallons more than what was produced in the year 1938.

During the year 26 new dairies were put into operation, making the total number of dairies in the County now registered for milk production 767. (This figure excludes "exempted" premises registered under Bye-law 44.)

There were 59 milk retailers at the end of the year. The supplies of 29 retailers consist wholly of "Tuberculin Tested" milk, in 2 cases "Pasteurised" milk, and in 28 cases "Ordinary" milk. It seems rather a pity that in this enlightened age "Ordinary" untreated milk should be sold to the public when, especially in Dumfriesshire, so many safer milk supplies are available.

The three creameries in the County were carried on satisfactorily during the year, except that because of extensive alterations to the one at Sanquhar some difficulty was met in keeping the plant there clean.

In addition to the routine advisory work carried out at the farms, I gave lectures on Clean Milk Production to dairy workers at various centres in the County. The lectures were well attended, but unfortunately did not attract the unsatisfactory producers who would have benefitted most from the talks.

During the year the Milk in Schools Scheme previously administered by the Scottish Milk Marketing Board was taken over by local authorities. Consequently sampling of school milk fell to be carried out by this department. It also meant more follow-up work in connection with unsatisfactory samples, and the inspection of bottles and other equipment used in the supply of school milk.

In addition to the new dairies constructed, many existing dairies were improved and/or extended during the year. All

these premises were finished out on modern lines, and at Laggan, Dunscore, the so-called "uncomfortable grip" was adopted, and I am glad to report this has proved very successful. This type of grip has a slope of roughly 1 in 3 for ten inches out from the heel of the beds and an ordinary slope for the remainder of the width. It has the effect of keeping the cows from standing back in the grip, an unsatisfactory feature in most byres.

Five "milking parlours" with recorder-releaser milking plants installed were in operation at the end of the year—an increase of three from last year. Although the dairy bye-laws do not apply to this type of premises, the finishings and fittings at each one are of a high standard.

In accordance with the Government's policy of improving the nation's milk supply the Scottish Milk Testing Scheme was put into operation during the year. Creameries could not take part in the scheme until the staff and equipment for the carrying out of the tests were approved by the Department of Health. In this area the Carnation Milk Factory started notifying under the scheme in August, Cowhill in October, and Lockerbie in November. Up to the end of the year these creameries had sent in twenty-three, nine and fourteen notifications respectively of unsatisfactory tests. Sanquhar Creamery, because of the alterations going on, and a consequent lack of testing facilities, had not been approved under the scheme at the end of 1946. Each notification was followed by a visit to the farm concerned in order to assist the producer, if possible, to improve his supply. In most cases we were able to visit on the day of receipt of the notification, but the average time between notification and visit did not exceed 1.75 days. Under the scheme it was not intended that Scottish Milk Marketing Board officials should follow-up notifications with visits to the farms, but this is taking place in Dumfriesshire. Had we been unable to cope with the number of notifications sent in, visits by Board officials might have been justified subject to proper liaison; but, as it is, dual visits are often carried out in connection with one complaint, which is a source of irritation to the farmer concerned. In addition, the unscrupulous producer is given an opportunity of playing one set of officials against the other.

Milk and Dairies (Scotland) Order, 1934.

The Order has been generally complied with except for the non-sealing of milk vessels containing milk before handing over to a common carrier. The "approved" type of leaden seal usually employed for sealing milk churns is anything but fool-proof, and in view of this, apart from any other reason, what real value accrues from sealing is doubtful.

Attention has had to be drawn on several occasions to defective churn lids, but legislation in regard to the condition of the churns themselves would be useful.

Milk (Special Designations) Orders (Scotland), 1936-1944.

During the year 90 producer's "Tuberculin Tested" licences were granted. Of these, 10 were new farmers taking over where the previous farmer had held a "Tuberculin Tested" licence, and 18 were changes in the name of the licensed producer. Thus, there were 62 entirely new "Tuberculin Tested" licences issued, 43 of which were "Ordinary" and "Standard" dairies upgraded to "Tuberculin Tested." The remaining 19 licences issued were new dairies which went right on to "Tuberculin Tested" milk production. At the end of the year there were 552 "Tuberculin Tested" dairies, which represents 72% of the total number of dairies in the County.

Six producer's "Standard" licences were granted during the year, and the total number of "Standard" dairies is now 58.

Two licences were suspended during the year because of unsatisfactory milk samples and methods of production at the dairies concerned.

Owing to shortage of staff for the greater part of the year the total number of milk samples taken fell to 1508 as compared with 2417 in the previous year. I am pleased to report, however, that of the 1508 samples taken only 126, or 8%, proved unsatisfactory. In addition, only 95 producers were concerned with the 126 unsatisfactory samples. These are the best results of milk sampling yet recorded in this County, and compare favourably with last year's figure of 17½% unsatisfactory. The

results also show that there is a very high standard of cleanliness in most dairies in the County. I should mention that 144 of the samples mentioned above were not taken from licensed producers, but were mainly qualifying samples for "Tuberculin Tested" or "Standard" licences.

The following is a monthly record of samples taken under the Orders :—

Month.	Samples Taken.		Unsatisfactory Samples.		Average Bact. Counts.	
	T.T.	St.	T.T.	St.	T.T.	St.
January ...	202	24	8	1	23,915	17,654
February ...	122	25	11	3	50,614	40,087
March ...	183	30	14	2	34,863	56,613
April ...	195	21	14	...	35,923	16,150
May ...	152	21	13	...	18,809	37,809
June ...	32	4	1	1	19,088	2,250
July ...	5	2	1	...	29,000	3,500
August ...	3	...	2	...	151,000	...
September ...	52	2	10	1	36,529	995,333
October ...	37	3	6	1	49,729	38,667
November ...	128	15	15	4	40,331	74,067
December ...	83	23	4	2	40,565	30,048

